STRUCTURING AN ARGUMENT

Arguments consist of two kinds of statements: **premises** and **conclusions**.

PREMISE VS. CONCLUSION

A statement or claim that is either true or false. This statement aims to support, or provide evidence for, the final statement, called the conclusion.

A statement or claim that is supported by another preceding statement(s) in the argument, known as the premise.

Below are some examples of how we can structure arguments using premises and conclusions.

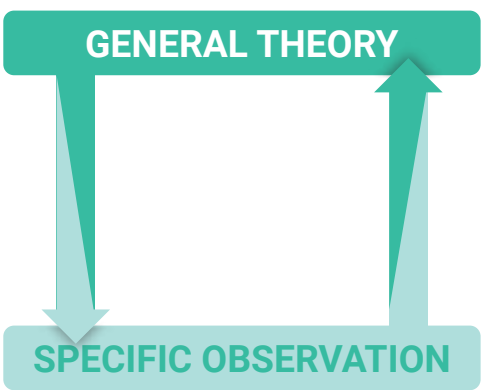
Premise 1: If A, then B Premise 2: A **Conclusion**: Therefore, B	Premise 1: A = B Premise 2: B = C **Conclusion**: Therefore, A = C	Premise 1: If A, then B Premise 2: Not A **Conclusion**: Therefore, not B

The validity or strength of your argument relies on how convincing your premises are. There are two approaches to reasoning that you can take to create a convincing argument: **deductive reasoning** or **inductive reasoning**. Deductive reasoning results in a **logical** argument, while inductive reasoning results in a **persuasive** argument.

DEDUCTIVE REASONING VS. INDUCTIVE REASONING

Aristotelian Method

Moves from generalisations or theory to specific observations



Sherlock Holmes Method

Moves from specific observations to generalisations or theory

Premise 1: All human beings are mortal.
Premise 2: I am a human being.
Conclusion: Therefore, I am mortal.

Premise 1: Karen is a teacher.
Premise 2: All teachers like children.
Conclusion: Therefore, Karen likes children.

When writing your article, use your basic argument structure to plan your content. Your goal is ultimately to **convince** the reader that your **premises are true**. If you can do that, your conclusion will follow effortlessly, and your argument will be **logical or persuasive**. Note, however, that not all premises need an extensive defence. Some, like 'all humans are mortal', are generally accepted. In such cases, rather use your space to support less evident premises.