

ENTHYMEMES: PRACTICE

- An *enthymeme* is a lot like a syllogism, but one of the premises is missing. Enthymemes are a major part of Rhetoric, while syllogisms are a major part of Logic. We use the principle of **INDUCTIVE LOGIC** when drawing a conclusion from the two premises of a syllogism. We use **DEDUCTIVE LOGIC** when solving an enthymeme.
- For each of the following enthymemes, try to draw the correct syllogism by filling in the missing premise. Anything before a “because” is **THE CONCLUSION**.
- When you write your syllogism, use the 3-part form.
 - EXAMPLE:
 - “All murderers should be executed.”
 - The **SUBJECT** term “All murderers” is the **SUBJECT** of the **Minor Premise**.
 - The **PREDICATE** terms “should be executed” make up the **PREDICATE** of the **Major Premise**.
 - We know that the Major and Minor premise must result in “All murderers should be executed,” but we must decide what the middle term is that will complete the Major and Minor Premises.
 - **Major:** All menaces to public safety should be executed.
 - **Minor:** All murderers are menaces to public safety.
 - **Therefore,** *all murderers should be executed.*

Enthymeme #1: *Bans against public smoking protect fundamental human rights because they protect innocent people from second-hand smoke.*

Major Premise:

Minor Premise:

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Enthymeme #2: *Reading the classics is vital to education because the classics teach moral character.*

Major Premise:

Minor Premise:

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Enthymeme #3: *All lawyers should be shot.*

Major Premise:

Minor Premise:

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Enthymeme #4: *Endangered animals ought to be protected by law.*

Major Premise:

Minor Premise:

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Enthymeme #5: *All criminals should be pardoned and released from jail.*

Major Premise:

Minor Premise:

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Enthymeme #6: *The government must burn all immoral books.*

Major Premise:

Minor Premise:

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