

Standard Form Argument Exercises, #2

Discussion

Put the following arguments into standard form.

2. I don't care what you say – I really think Josie is love with Juan. Why? Because she always wants to talk about him. And she gets very excited when he is due for a visit. She even blushes when you ask her about him. (From Trudy Govier, *Asking the Right Questions*)

Discussion: In this argument, “**because**” seems to act as a premise marker – making what follows the **premise(s)**. Since there are three premises here, in standard form each must be listed on a separate line, and numbered.

The sentence that comes before these premises, “Josie is in love with Juan,” would then be the **conclusion**. Its location, nearly the beginning of the passage, is also evidence that it is the conclusion.

(Note that the beginning of the conclusion sentence, “I really think that,” is just an expression of confidence that the conclusion is true; it’s like a conclusion marker, in that it’s not strictly part of the conclusion. If I make this argument to you, I’m trying to convince you that Josie is in love with Juan – *not* just that I *think* that. So I leave out “I really think that” when presenting the argument in standard form. Likewise, the initial sentence, “I don’t care what you say,” is just introductory material; it should be left out in standard form.)

The argument in standard form is as follows.

- 1. She [Josie] always wants to talk about him [Juan].**
- 2. And she gets very excited when he is due for a visit.**
- 3. She even blushes when you ask her about him.**

∴ Josie is love with Juan.