

# Arguments in Normal Form

Day 1-Philosophical Method

# Arguments in philosophy

- Are NOT disagreements
- Are NOT heated exchanges
- Provide reasons to believe that a statement is true
- Can be restated in “normal form”
  - Each reason (premise) is listed individually
  - The statement for which they are reasons is given at the bottom (called the conclusion)

# Argument Example

I know that Jim rode his bicycle to school today because he had his right pant leg rolled up when he came in to class. Bike riders often roll up their pant legs to prevent them from getting caught up in the bike chain. And Marilyn said she saw him putting a bike lock on a bike when she was in the parking lot.

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**Conclusion:**

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**Conclusion: Jim rode his bicycle to school today.**

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Reason:

Conclusion: **Jim rode his bicycle to school today.**

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Reason: Marilyn saw Jim putting a bike lock on a bike in the parking lot.

Conclusion: Jim rode his bicycle to school today.

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Reason: Jim's right pant leg was rolled up when he came to class today.

Reason: Marilyn saw Jim putting a bike lock on a bike in the parking lot this morning.

Conclusion: Jim rode his bicycle to school today.

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1. Bike riders often roll up their right pant legs to prevent them from getting caught in the bike chain.
2. Jim's right pant leg was rolled up when he came to class today.
3. Marilyn saw Jim putting a bike lock on a bike in the parking lot this morning.

- 
4. Jim rode his bicycle to school today.

# Normal Form

Any ordering of the premises is OK

1. Marilyn saw Jim putting a bike lock on a bike in the parking lot this morning.
2. Bike riders often roll up their right pant legs to prevent them from getting caught in the bike chain.
3. Jim's right pant leg was rolled up when he came to class today.

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4. Jim rode his bicycle to school today.

# Normal Form

Any ordering of the premises is OK

1. Marilyn saw Jim putting a bike lock on a bike in the parking lot this morning.
  2. Jim's right pant leg was rolled up when he came to class today.
  3. Bike riders often roll up their right pant legs to prevent them from getting caught in the bike chain.
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4. Jim rode his bicycle to school today.



# Normal Form

The premises and the conclusion of an argument must be **propositions** (statements which are either true or false ).

1. Bike riders often roll up their right pant legs to prevent them from getting caught in the bike chain.
  2. Jim's right pant leg was rolled up when he came to class today.
  3. Marilyn saw Jim putting a bike lock on a bike in the parking lot this morning.
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4. Jim rode his bicycle to school today.

# Normal Form

The premises and the conclusion of an argument must be **propositions** (statements which are either true or false).

If the premises are **true**, that should give us some reason to believe that the conclusion is **true**.

1. Bike riders often roll up their right pant legs to prevent them from getting caught in the bike chain.
  2. Jim's right pant leg was rolled up when he came to class today.
  3. Marilyn saw Jim putting a bike lock on a bike in the parking lot this morning.
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4. Jim rode his bicycle to school today.

# NOT an argument

1. Roll up that pant leg, Jim!
  2. Look Marilyn!
- 

3. Ride, Jim, ride!

# NOT an argument

1. The Nationals won their game last night.
2. Red delicious apples outsell every other variety.

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3. Jim rode his bicycle to school today.