

Global Warming Workshop 8-2 Friday afternoon Session May 23, 2008

You were asked assigned to bring two or three selections from the web that present arguments about global warming and its policy implications. (You were encouraged to find at least one argument on each side of the issue).

I. Part I Identification of reconstruction of arguments

(In small group)

- A. Have each member of the group briefly describe the selections they found. This inventory should include a statement about the conclusion of the selection and its source.
- B. The group as a whole should pick two arguments on each side of the issue (four in total) for further discussion. After everybody has become familiar with the arguments. You should pick the strongest arguments you have found on each side
- C. Work together to analyze the arguments using the first few steps of the 6 step process discussed in Critical Reasoning, Ch. 11, p. 304 and following. These steps should lead to an identification of the kind of argument you have (e.g. deductive, inductive/statistical, causal, analogical, convergent) and should result in a reconstruction of the argument that displays the argument in terms of relevant premises and conclusion. If you are having difficulties in doing this discuss, whether you should pick another from your store of arguments. If you are having difficulty, talk with David.
- D. Write out the argument in the appropriate “standard form” on a sheet that includes all the small group members names. Hand this to David who will put it on the computer for later discussion.

II. Part I Evaluation (Criticism) of arguments.

(In small group)

- A. Apply the remaining steps in the 6 step process to the argument(s) you reconstructed in Part I. You should apply the appropriate evaluative techniques discussed in the text. Certainly, if you have deductive argument, you should determine whether it is deductively sound. For other types of argument you should apply appropriate criticisms for that type of argument.
- B. You should discuss whether any additional criticism not covered in A applies to the argument .
- C. You should write up your criticism (again with the names of all the members of the group) and determine a spokesperson.
- D. The group will help the spokesperson develop the brief presentation as described below.

III Presentations.

(Plenary)

We will discuss an argument from each group in turn. This reconstructed argument will be displayed from the computer, and the spokesperson will put the argument in context (where did it come from, what perspective did it seem to represent) and will summarize the criticism (evaluation) by the small group. After each presentation, the discussion will be opened to the class as a whole.,