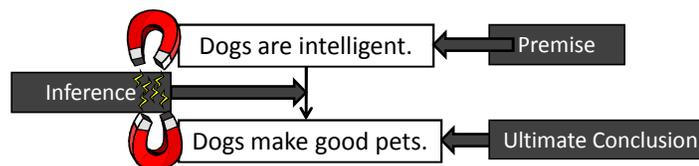# Argument Structure
II) Lesson 1: Inference Indicators (with Premises and Ultimate Conclusion)

At the end of this lesson, you will be able to

✓ State the definition of "premise"

✓ State the definition of "inference"

✓ Use conclusion indicator expressions to communicate and analyze arguments

✓ Use reason indicator expressions to communicate and analyze arguments

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II) Lesson 1 – Slide 1

A premise is an idea that the argument uses as evidence for the ultimate conclusion, but that the argument assumes to be true without providing proof.

An inference is the connection that holds between a set of ideas, R, and another idea, C, when the truth of the ideas in R is supposed to establish the truth of C.

II) Lesson 1 – Slide 2

Dogs are intelligent. ← Premise

Inference →

Dogs make good pets. ← Ultimate Conclusion

Inference Indicator Expressions

Conclusion Indicators

"therefore" "thus" "consequently" "hence"
"so" "this goes to show that"
"it follows that" "as a result" "that's why"
"which implies that" "which means that"

→

"A. Therefore B."

"Dogs are intelligent. Therefore they make good pets."

Reason Indicators

"because" "since" "given that"
"assuming that" "inasmuch as"
"in view of the fact that"
"the reason is that" "after all"

→   ←

"Because C, D."   "E because F."

"Because dogs are intelligent, they make good pets."

"Dogs make good pets because they are intelligent."

II) Lesson 1 – Slide 3

Useful for Communicating Our Own Arguments
(e.g. Writing)

Argument Diagram   Passage Containing the Argument

Useful for Understanding Other People's Arguments
(e.g. Reading)

II) Lesson 1 – Slide 4

"Cats are easy to care for. Thus, they make good pets."

Conclusion Indicator

Conclusion

Cats are easy to care for.

Cats make good pets.

"Cats are easy to care for since they are independent."

Reason Indicator

Reason

Cats are independent.

Cats are easy to care for.

II) Lesson 1 – Slide 5