

Principle of Presumption

When building a strong argument, it is important not to violate principle of critical thinking. One of these principles is the principle of presumption. In arguing if we presume that something is true before we prove it then we can often lose an argument. Presume means to believe something is true even if it has not been proved.

Example 1 / A solid argument

What the person wants

To go to the movies

Arguments to get what they want

I am a good kid, I work hard, homework done

Conclusion

I should be allowed to go to the movies.

Example 2 / Violation of the Principle of Presumption

What the person wants

To ask someone in a small, southern
Town to vote for Hillary Clinton

Presumptions

Southern people are all Republicans
Smart people vote Democrat

Conclusion

Southern people won't vote Democrat.

The above example presumes things that might not be true. It presumes certain attitudes and beliefs in the other person that the person does not know are true or not.

Practice

Circle the Presumptions below

1. Everyone from Guilford County goes to the Friendly Center.
2. 99 percent of registered voters in Greensboro voted for Trader Joes to come to town.
3. All the guys at PCHS watch football.
4. 3 out of 4 students in Guilford County have smartphones.
5. She is a girl and won't like to go play baseball.