

**From For All X, Chapter 1 <http://www.fecundity.com/codex/forallx.pdf>**

Logic is the business of evaluating arguments, sorting good ones from bad ones. In everyday language, we sometimes use the word "argument" to refer to belligerent shouting matches. If you and a friend have an argument in this sense, things are not going well between the two of you.

In logic, we are not interested in the teeth-gnashing, hair-pulling kind of argument. A logical argument is structured to give someone a reason to believe some conclusion. Here is one such argument:

- (1) It is raining heavily.
- (2) If you do not take an umbrella, you will get soaked.
- :\_: You should take an umbrella.

The dots on the third line of the argument mean "therefore" and they indicate that the final sentence is the conclusion of the argument. The other sentences are premises of the argument. If you believe the premises, then the argument provides you with a reason to believe the conclusion.

In some Logic textbooks, the :\_: appears instead as a set of three dots, ∴. We will see other Logic symbols in future units of the course.