

Deduction & Induction

Communications & Media

Two ways reasons support conclusions, with different standards of success.

Deductive

- Conclusion follows necessarily
- Valid if the form is correct
- Sound if valid and premises true
- Adds no new information
- Fails through invalid form

Inductive

- Conclusion is probable, not certain
- Judged strong or weak, not valid
- Depends on sample and analogy
- Extends beyond the evidence
- Fails through unrepresentative cases

THE DIFFERENCE THAT MATTERS

Ask the right question of each: is it valid and sound, or is it strong and well grounded?

Calling an inductive argument invalid is a category error. It can only be weak, and the fix is better or broader evidence.