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PA1 Scientific discoveries have proven that materialism is false. Dr. Duncan MacDougall of Haverhill, MA performed a series of experiments on dying patients. He noted that at the precise moment of death, each patient lost $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an ounce. MacDougall also discovered that when dogs die, they do not lose any weight. Dr. MacDougall concluded that each human being has a soul; and that the soul leaves the body at the moment of death; and that this accounts for the loss in weight. MacDougall hypothesized that he got different results in the case of the dogs because dogs have no souls. No one has ever proven that MacDougall is wrong.

SUBJECT OF PASSAGE: Materialism when looking at the mind and the body

1. Each patient lost $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an ounce at their time of death.
2. If each patient lost $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an ounce at their time of death, then their souls must have left their bodies.
3. If the patient's souls left their bodies at the time of death, then materialism is false.
4. Therefore materialism is false.

Argument form: Multiple Modus Ponens

Premise 1: "Each patient lost $\frac{3}{4}$ of an ounce at their time of death."

There are no technical terms to be defined in this premise. Premise one was stated as background information to start off the rest of the argument. It can be considered a fact because it is background information based on a study that has not yet been proven wrong therefore, if we continue the study we should find that humans do in fact lose weight at their time of death. This premise specifically was compared to dogs in the argument. The same study was done on dogs and it was found that they did not lose weight at their time of death and therefore implied that they do not have souls.

Premise 2: "If each patient lost $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an ounce at their time of death, then their souls must have left their bodies."

There are no technical terms to be defined in this premise. This premise was not stated within the passage in these exact words, but it was implied. This premise was stated to argue that the $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an ounce being lost was lost because of the souls leaving their bodies. If the weight loss was in fact because the patient's souls left their bodies, then souls/spirits are real and this would disprove materialism. This premise brings us right into premise 3.

Premise 3: "If their souls left their bodies, then materialism is false."

Materialism is the doctrine that nothing exists except matter and its movements and modifications. If their souls leave their bodies, then obviously souls exist and materialism is false. This premise rounds all of the other premises by bringing together the individual thoughts

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throughout the argument and finding the conclusion. The conclusion, which is also the fourth line of the argument, is that materialism is false.

This argument is in fact valid, as I put it in the form of Multiple Modus Ponens and I believe that it is valid because if all of the premises are true then it is impossible for the conclusion to be false. This argument can also be considered sound since all of the information came from a study that has not yet been proven false, the information must be true. In my opinion, premise two is the weakest, which once again states that "If each patient lost 3/4ths of an ounce at their time of death, then their souls must have left their bodies." My counter argument to this premise is if material things have weight and the weight loss of the patients was due to their soul leaving their bodies, then the soul is a material thing. Material is defined as the matter from which a thing is or can be made. Matter is defined as anything that has mass and volume (occupies space).

Therefore, if the soul has mass then it is considered material and thus materialism cannot be false. This would also disprove the argument that dogs don't have souls, because if it is believed that souls are not material, then they do not have weight, and therefore the weight loss at the time of death could not be from the soul leaving the body.