**Extractos**

Freedom and Determinism Arguments

**FD1** In class one day we performed an experiment.  I was told to hold my finger up in front of my nose.  I was told to think about moving to the right, as well as moving to the left.  I did this for a few minutes.  It wasn't hard.  Then, when the teacher said “go”, I was supposed to move my finger one way or the other.  I moved mine to the left, but I felt certain that I could have moved it the other way just as easily.  After all, there were no strings attached.  This proved that determinism is nonsensical foolishness.

1. One feels that they can move their finger in either direction.

2. If one feels that they can move their finger in either direction, then determinism is false.

3. Therefore determinism is false. 1,2 MP

**FD2** Sometimes we change our minds at the last moment for no apparent reason.  We have all had this experience.  This weekend I was going to spend the day studying.  I had planned to do this all week, but at the very last moment I changed my mind.  I spent the whole day outside riding my bike.....and I can't think of any reason for this at all.  Since we sometimes do things like what I did this weekend, we definitely act freely sometimes.  Consider this:  I was just about to have a productive day of studying, so surely I could have actually studied instead of blowing off the whole day.  I acted freely in this case because I could have done other than I in fact did.  Furthermore, if we act freely sometimes then Hard Determinism is pure nonsense.

1. Sometimes we change our minds at the last minute.
2. If sometimes we change our minds at the last minute then we are acting freely.
3. If we are acting freely then hard determinism is false.
4. Therefore hard determinism is false. 1,2,3 MMP

**FD3** Wise theologians have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that God exists.  That can't be denied.  And we know that God is omniscient and necessarily existent.  From this I infer that God must have known, from the beginning of time, every fact about our behavior.  Since it is now impossible for us to go back in time and change God's beliefs about our behavior, it follows that we simply must behave in the way He knew we would behave.  Therefore, no matter how free we feel, our behavior is completely determined by factors utterly outside of our control.  Free will is an illusion.

1. God has known our actions since the beginning of time.

2. If God has known about our actions since the beginning of time, then we must behave in the way that He knew we would.

3. If we must behave in the way He knew we would, then free will is an illusion.

4. Therefore free will is an illusion. 1,2,3 MMP

**FD4** The causes of certain sorts of behavior are already pretty well understood.  For example, geneticists have discovered the gene that causes alcoholism.  As psychology progresses, the causes of all sorts of behavior will be discovered.  At that time, it will become clear that everything we do is the result of our genetic inheritance, our childhood experiences, and other external forces.  Although it is still in its infancy, psychology is after all a genuine science.  All human behavior is in principle explainable.  Thus, the concept of free will is little more than a left-over remnant of prescientific mythology.

1.Psychological study has determined that certain behaviors have genetic causes.

2.If certain behaviors have genetic causes then all human behavior is in principle explainable.

3. If all human behavior is explainable in principle then free will is leftover prescientific mythology.

3. Therefore free will is leftover from prescientific mythology. 1,2,3 MMP

# Nature of Philosophy Arguments

**NOP1** The greatest source of insight concerning the nature of any object is provided by the etymology of its name.  Thus, in order to understand the nature of philosophy, we must search out the origins of the word 'philosophy.'  When we do this, we find that it comes from two Greek words, 'philos' and 'sophia', which mean, respectively, 'love' and 'wisdom.'  Hence we may confidently conclude that philosophy is precisely this: the love of wisdom.

1. If “philos” and “sophia” respectively mean “love” and “wisdom”.

2. If “philos” and “sophia” respectively mean “love” and “wisdom”, then philosophy is the love of wisdom.

3. Therefore philosophy is the love of wisdom. 1,2 MP

**NOP2** Professor Freedman's thesis is that philosophy is not the love of wisdom, but I am sure Freedman's thesis is wrong.  If you know anything about etymology, you know that "philosophy" comes from "philos" and "sophia" which are Greek words meaning "love" and "wisdom".  Since these words have these meanings, it follows that philosophy must be the love of wisdom.  So Freedman must be talking through his hat.

1. “Philos” and “sophia” mean “love” and “wisdom”

2. If “philos” and “sophia” mean “love” and “wisdom”, then philosophy is the love of wisdom.

3. If philosophy is the love of wisdom then Professor Freedman’s thesis is wrong.

4. Therefore Professor Freedman’s thesis is wrong. 1,2,3 MMP

**NOP3** The title of Prof. Christian's book is "Philosophy: an introduction to the art of wondering".  Perhaps Prof. Christian thinks that philosophy is the art of wondering.  However, it is pretty clear that philosophy isn't the art of wondering. I’ll tell you about a neighbor of mine -- Dwayne.  Dwayne is currently unemployed.  He sits on his front porch and watches the cars go by.  As each car goes by, Dwayne wonders where it came from; he wonders where it is going; he wonders who is at the wheel.  Indeed, no matter what happens, Dwayne is filled with wonderment.  I have never known a greater artist in wondering than Dwayne. However, Dwayne is no philosopher.  He never majored in philosophy in college; he never read a philosophy book; he's not a member of the American Philosophical Association; he never even thinks about philosophical questions.  And this proves that Prof. Christian's thesis is a lot of nonsense.

1. If Prof. Christian says that philosophy is the art of wondering then anyone who wonders is a philosopher.

2. Not all people who wonder are philosophers.

3. Therefore Prof. Christian’s is wrong. 1,2 MT

**NOP4** Professor Christian tells us that philosophy is a method.  The method involves asking questions, finding information, checking fact-claims, etc.  If philosophy were this method, then everyone who uses the method would be a philosopher.  My friend Barbara, who is a biologist, often uses this same method when she is doing research in her laboratory.  But she's no philosopher.  She didn't even take Phil 200 when she went to college.  So Professor Christian doesn't know what he is talking about.

1. If Barbara is not a philosopher, Professor Christian’s thesis is wrong.

2. Barbara is not a philosopher.

3. Therefore Professor Christian is wrong. 1,2 MP