

### Chapter 3: Diagramming Arguments

#### A. The Basics of Diagramming Arguments

Diagramming arguments reveals the relationships among premises as well as those between premises and conclusion. Another way to say this is that a diagram is a sort of map that allows you to see how you move from premises to conclusion.

An argument consisting of a single premise (1) and a conclusion (2) is diagrammed as follows:



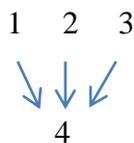
Premises can support the conclusion independently or dependently.

**Independent premises** support the conclusion in such a way that, if one premise were to be false, the truth of the conclusion would not be affected.

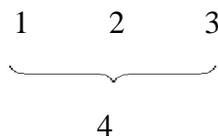
**Dependent premises** support the conclusion jointly, that is, they support the conclusion in such a way that they act together.

Arguments are diagrammed using numbers, arrows, braces, and as needed, brackets. Each statement in an argument is numbered. Arrows show the direction of the premise-conclusion relationship, and braces reflect dependent premises.

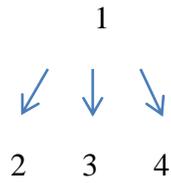
A **convergent diagram** reflects an argument with independent premises.



A **linked diagram** reflects an argument with dependent premises.



A **divergent diagram** reflects a single premise supporting independent conclusions.



Finally, a **serial diagram** reflects a conclusion from one argument serving as a premise in a second argument.



### B. Diagramming Extended Arguments

Extended arguments often require diagrams that combine two or more of our diagramming techniques.

For example, the following extended argument diagram contains linked, convergent, divergent, and serial diagrams.

