

IMPORTANT CONCEPTS IN CHAPTER 8



- Cause-and-effect arguments are important in everyday life as well as in formal debates.
- The three parts of a causal argument include describing an alleged cause, describing an effect, and demonstrating that the relationship between the two is causal.
- Three common methods used to support and refute cause-and-effect arguments include the method of agreement, the method of difference, and the method of correlation.
- Some important types of causes include necessary and sufficient causes, contributory causes, and intervening or counteracting causes.
- When constructing a causal argument, debaters can follow this process: describe a feature of the cause, demonstrate the effect, and demonstrate a causal relationship between the two.
- Some ways to refute a causal argument include: refuting the description of the cause, showing alternate causes for the effect, disagreeing with the alleged effect, and showing that the relationship is not causal.

NOTES

1. As claims of similarity have yet to be introduced into Karl Popper debate, we will only discuss claims of cause and effect in this chapter.

2. This part of the chapter borrows heavily from Robert Trapp and Tehmeena Luqman, "Debating Values Using Cause and Effect Argument," *Idebate* 3, no. 4 (June 2003): 28–37.

3. John Stuart Mill, *A System of Logic, Ratiocinative and Inductive: Being a Connected View of the Principles of Evidence and the Methods of Scientific Investigation* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1882), 280–287. Mill's canons were called the method of agreement, the method of difference, the joint method of agreement and difference, the method of residues, and the method of concomitant variation.

4. This example is borrowed from Otis M. Walter and Robert L. Scott, *Thinking and Speaking: A Guide to Intelligent Oral Communication* (New York: Macmillan, 1968), 179.

5. *Conjectures and Refutations: The Growth of Scientific Knowledge* (New York: Harper & Row, 1968), 36.

6. Technically, this argument ignores the possibility of artificial insemination.

7. In this particular example, the proper combination of fuel, ignition, and compression are both necessary and sufficient causes. Each of the three is a necessary cause. Without any one of them, the engine will not start. In combination, the three are a sufficient cause.

8. Statements made at the March 5, 2003 meeting of the United Nation's Commission of the Status of Women.

9. Mu Dong, "More Japanese Women Seeking Jobs Abroad," Xinhua General News Service, January 27, 2003.

10. Elizabeth Anderson, *Human Rights Watch News*, July 10, 2001.

11. Anabel Unity Sale and Sarah Wellard, "Domestic Violence, No Hiding Place," *Community Care*, March 6, 2003.

12. John Elliott and Maurice Chittenden, "Women 'Choose to Have Lower Pay than Men,'" *Sunday Times* (London) April 6, 2003.

13. Report on National Policy of Development and Empowerment of Women, December 13, 2002. Women Entrepreneurs Information Network, http://www.win.org.pk/page.php?page_id=18.