

# Inductive and Deductive Reasoning

Identify whether the following use inductive or deductive reasoning. Answers on page 2.

1. Taking a person's life is always wrong. Capital punishment involves taking a person's life. Therefore, capital punishment is always wrong.
2. The right to self determination of minority peoples is a core part of international law. Therefore, if a majority of Aboriginal Australians vote for self-government, they must be allowed to do so.
3. Six in ten children who are allowed to drink at home with their parents become alcoholics later in life. Therefore, attitudes towards drinking are formed by others near to us.
4. Every human being has rights. John is a human being, therefore, John has rights.
5. Every time Mr Jones has taught Contract Law, students have achieved good results on the exam. This semester, Mr Jones is teaching Contract Law. Therefore, students will go well in the exam.
6. A's oral contract for sale of land was invalid in Case A. B's oral contract for sale of land was invalid in Case B. C's oral contract for sale of land was invalid in Case C. Therefore, all oral contracts for the sale of land are invalid.
7. Red cars go fast. Jenny's car is red. Therefore, Jenny's car goes fast.
8. We all have the right to equal treatment under the law. Therefore, Jane and Mary should be able to adopt a child, just as John and Mary are able to.

Answers:

1. Taking a person's life is always wrong. Capital punishment involves taking a person's life. Therefore, capital punishment is always wrong. [Answer: Deductive]
2. The right to self determination of minority peoples is a core part of international law. Therefore, if a majority of Aboriginal Australians vote for self-government, must be allowed to do so. [Answer: Deductive]
3. Six in ten children who are allowed to drink at home with their parents become alcoholics later in life. Therefore, attitudes towards drinking are formed by others near to us. [Answer: Inductive]
4. Every human being has rights. John is a human being, therefore, John has rights. [Answer: Deductive]
5. Every time Mr Jones has taught Contract Law, students have achieved good results on the exam. This semester, Mr Jones is teaching Contract Law. Therefore, students will go well in the exam. [Answer: Inductive]
6. A's oral contract for sale of land was invalid in Case A. B's oral contract for sale of land was invalid in Case B. C's oral contract for sale of land was invalid in Case C. Therefore, all oral contracts for the sale of land are invalid. [Answer: Inductive]
7. Red cars go fast. Jenny's car is red. Therefore, Jenny's car goes fast. [Answer: Deductive]
8. We all have the right to equal treatment under the law. Therefore, Jane and Mary should be able to adopt a child, just as John and Mary are able to. [Answer: Deductive]