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Using Truth Tables to Teach Enthymemes

Abstract: A method is presented to teach enthymemes using truth tables. Students are given an argument with a missing step, some choices for the missing step, and are to put these into a truth table. They are then to use the criteria of consistency, validity, and charity to choose a step to complete the argument. This technique is intended to teach introductory logic students about enthymemes, and to give them more practice with truth tables and symbolization. This method is limited to sentence logic arguments, but can also evaluate enthymemes missing both a premise and conclusion.

Keywords: enthymeme, truth table, multiple choice, assumption, teaching logic, consistency, validity, charity