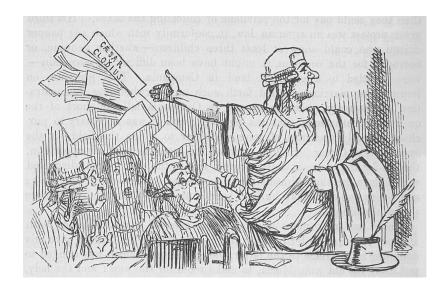# Two Basic Arguments

Much academic reading is predicated on proving a point through argument. There are two basic types of arguments you need to master in order to read skeptically, contribute to class discussions, and write coherently:

1. Arguments by analogy
2. Arguments about causes

The argument by analogy draws a comparison between two things. "A does something, therefore B should too." Analyze the following:

> The economist asserted that China was a moderately aggressive intervener in its currency markets, which spurred its growth. He concluded that India would do well to intervene more in its own currency market if it wanted to promote growth during the recession.

What is being compared?

_____

_____

Question the argument, even though you may not know any of the details:

_____

_____

Cause and effect arguments often follow these structures:
  ➢ X came before Y, therefore X caused Y, and
  ➢ X increased and Y increased, therefore X caused Y to increase.

> The higher fat content of the patient's diet is an adequate explanation of his weight and of the presence of excess visceral adipose tissue around his abdomen, which may or may not provide a buffer if caloric intake does not match caloric output. Therefore patient should reduce the fat in his diet and his health should improve.

What is the cause, and what is the proposed effect?

_____

_____

What could be another cause of "the patient's ... weight and the presence of excess visceral adipose tissue around his abdomen."

_____

_____