

Inductive vs. Deductive Reasoning

Assignment #1: Rhetorical Strategies

There are two major forms of logical reasoning within logos: **inductive** and **deductive**.

In **inductive** reasoning, the speaker presents a specific example and then claims that what is true in this specific case must be true in all cases. *

In **deductive** reasoning, the opposite is true: the speaker presents a general case and assumes that the same must be true for a specific case as well.

	Premise	And	Therefore
Examples of inductive reasoning	This orange is sweet.	This orange is a fruit.	All fruits are sweet.
	Mr. Smith is strict.	Mr. Smith is a 5 th grade teacher.	All 5 th grade teachers are strict.
Examples of deductive reasoning	All pine trees are evergreens.	This tree is a pine.	This tree is an evergreen.
	Only lawyers have legal licenses.	This woman has a legal license	This woman is a lawyer.

*** Do you see the problem? Inductive reasoning is unreliable. Not all fruits can be assumed to be sweet just because an orange is. Think about a lemon, for example! Inductive reasoning is often used in speeches to make associations that are not really there.**