

7 Qualifying an argument without weakening it – Part 1 — Answers

Answers

Work through these after you have tried the questions yourself.

2.1 stating the conditions under which a claim holds; it makes the claim harder to refute by excluding the obvious counter-examples.

2.2 granting a point to the other side; it buys the reader's trust at no cost to what was already true.

2.3 answering the objection after granting what is true in it.

2.4 the argument is abandoned - the objection has been accepted and nothing has been said against it.

2.5 a qualified claim states exactly where it holds; a hedged claim states nothing definite anywhere.

2.6 any conditional version, e.g. "subsidies work where the service is already frequent enough to be useful". \