

What is a Syllogism?

1. Syllogism—declarative statements formulated in such a fashion to defend an argument.
2. A syllogism is composed of two connected premises—statements which act as a defense to your argument.
3. The basic formula is based on three tier propositions:
Major premise + Minor Premise = Conclusion.
4. Hasty deductive syllogisms result in stereotypes and miscommunication.

Syllogism for “Student Life”

You have just read through a portion of Thomas Jefferson’s drafts for the Declaration of Independence. I want you to create a working syllogism of your own on the subject of the typical life of a high school junior.

EXAMPLE: Major: *If Jason is a Junior student at Hempstead High School in 2018,*
Minor: *and then if Jason keeps maintaining good grades,*
Conclusion: *as a result, Jason will be a Senior next year.*

Major Premise (If..)

<a general observation>

1. _____

Minor Premise (If/Then/Furthermore...)

<a specific observation>

2. _____

Conclusion (Therefore/As a result...)

3. _____