

Second Argument Analysis Exercise

Write 2-3 pages providing an analysis of the following argument. In doing so,

- i Number the premises and the conclusion. Articulate each premise and the conclusion in no more than one sentence. Note that in order to do this, you may need to use a different wording than is provided by the text.
- i Indicate for each premise whether it is an assumption, or whether it is supposed to follow from earlier premises. (This should appear in parentheses after the premise.)
- i After stating the argument, briefly explain it in your own words, and then comment on its cogency: Is the argument convincing? Are its premises plausible? Are the inferences sound? (If not, why not?)
- i Indicate in your discussion any implicit (or suppressed) premises. Are there additional premises that are not explicitly stated in the text given?

...to say that my actions proceed from my character or, more colloquially, that I act in character, is to say that my behavior is consistent and to that extent predictable: and since it is, above all, for the actions that I perform in character that I am held to be morally responsible, it looks as if the admission of moral responsibility, so far from being incompatible with determinism, tends rather to presuppose it.

A. J. Ayer, "Freedom and Necessity"
in *Reason and Responsibility*, 11th edition
p. 483 (second column).

DUE DATE: Wednesday, November 14, at noon (at the beginning of lecture). Give your completed exercise to your teaching assistant. Late papers will be penalized.