Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking
Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK

Assuring

Quality Higher Education

in Sierra Leone
(AQHEd-SL)

Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF)
within the project AQHEd-SL

Unit 3 - Snippet 73

Here is another example of inductive reasoning that may help you to understand better what inductive arguments are:

Consider an app which helps you navigate new territory in a city. It may be able to tell you in advance how long you will need to reach your destination based on numerous instances of observation fed into it, taking into account time of day and traffic conditions customary to that specific day at that specific time. The app won't guarantee your arrival as predicted, but nevertheless will prove to be a useful tool for you to plan your journey.

Let's assume this scenario: A visitor is coming to Freetown and wants to travel by taxi from the ferry terminal in Aberdeen to one of the hotels at Lumley beach.

The reasoning of the app developers is inductive:

On a large number of observed and documented instances, it has taken people travelling in conditions very similar to yours (meaning by taxi at a certain time of day) 15 minutes to make that specific journey from the Aberdeen ferry terminal to the hotel at Lumley beach. Therefore, it should take you this amount of time as well.

Practical activity – Inductive argument

Try to note down the premise of the developers' inductive argument and the conclusion.