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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 76

What was your answer to the questions about the 'dinosaur' argument in snippet 75? Is it similar to the sample answer below?

Tyrannosaurus, Argentinosaurus and Giraffatitan are merely three of the several hundred of dinosaur genera discovered. This argument is weak because there is a very low probability that the truth of the conclusion follows the truth of the premises, as it is based on only 3 examples. Actually, dinosaurs show some of the most extreme variations in size of any land animal group.

Inductive arguments are very important in science because they help us say something new based on what we already know. They help us make predictions, generalization, educated guesses about the future based on our observation of past events, thus increasing our knowledge. While sound deductive arguments provide us with certainty, they do not help us enrich our knowledge. On the other hand, strong cogent inductive arguments, although merely indicating probability, help us broaden our horizons.