Term: Abduction

Quote: ...he divided all reasoning into, 1st, the deductive, including all necessary
inference together with all probable inference to which the calculus of
probabilities is properly applicable (rejecting inverse probabilities not founded
on positive information), 2nd, the inductive, including all experimental testing
of hypotheses (for he considers a physical experiment to be in a general sense
of the same nature as a geometrical reasoning, which is performed by internal
experimentation) but excluding, 3rd, the “abductive,” or the process of forming
and accepting on probation, a hypothesis by which to explain surprising facts.


References: Peirce, 1983, p. 65; MS [R] L107:3-MS [R] L107(s):6

Date of Quote: 1904

Editorial Annotations: This quote has been taken from Kenneth Laine Ketner's 1983 reconstruction of
Peirce's 'Autobiography'

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-brief-intellectual-autobiography-charles-sanders-peirce