Term: Induction
Quote: I have argued in several of my early papers that there are but three essentially
different modes of reasoning: Deduction, Induction, and Abduction. I may
mention in particular papers in the Proceedings of the American Academy of
Arts and Sciences for April and May 1867. I must say, however, that it would be
very easy to misunderstand those arguments. I did not at first fully comprehend
them myself. I cannot restate the matter tonight, although I am very desirous of
doing so, for I could now put it in a much clearer light. I have already explained
to you briefly what these three modes of inference, Deduction, Induction, and
Abduction, are. I ought to say that when I described induction as the
experimental testing of a hypothesis, I was not thinking of experimentation in
the narrow sense in which it is confined to cases in which we ourselves
deliberately create the peculiar conditions under which we desire to study a
phenomenon. I mean to extend it to every case in which, having ascertained by
deduction that a theory would lead us to anticipate under certain circumstances
phenomena contrary to what we should expect if the theory were not true, we
examine the cases of that sort to see how far those predictions are borne out.

References: EP 2:234
Date of Quote: 1903
URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-harvard-lectures-pragmatism-lecture-vii-1