

'Complete Argument' (pub. 23.03.18-15:17). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-natural-classification-arguments-4>.

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**Term:** Complete Argument

**Quote:** ...every argument has, as portion of its leading principle, a certain principle which cannot be eliminated from its leading principle. Such a principle may be termed a *logical principle*.

An argument whose leading principle contains nothing which can be eliminated is termed a *complete*, in opposition to an *incomplete*, *rhetorical*, or *enthymematic* argument.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1867). On the Natural Classification of Arguments. *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, 7, 261-287.

**References:** W 2:24

**Date of** 1867

**Quote:**

**Editorial** In 1893, Peirce modified the last part of this quote as follows: "Since it can  
**Annotations** never be requisite that a fact stated should also be implied in order to justify a  
**:** conclusion, every *logical principle* considered as an assertion will be found to be quite empty. The only thing it really enunciates is a rule of inference; considered as expressing truth, it is nothing." (CP 2.467)

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