
**Term:** Abduction

**Quote:** Let us now consider non-necessary reasoning. This divides itself, according to the different ways in which it may be valid, into three classes: probable deduction; experimental reasoning, which I now call Induction; and processes of thought capable of producing no conclusion more definite than a conjecture, which I now call Abduction.

[—]

Abduction is no more nor less than guessing, a faculty attributed to Yankees. [—] Such validity as this has consists in the generalization that no new truth is ever otherwise reached while some new truths are thus reached. This is a result of Induction; and therefore in a remote way Abduction rests upon diagrammatic reasoning.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1906-7). *PAP [ed.]*. MS [R] 293.

**References:** NEM 4:319-320

**Date of Quote:** 1906-7

**URL:** http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-pap-ed