**Logic Exercises 2: Diagramming Arguments**

**For each of the following passages do the following:**

1. Identify the main conclusion.
2. Identify any sub-conclusions.
3. Identify all premises.
4. Diagram the argument using ‘+’ and ‘\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’ and down arrows.

1.

Eating meat is morally wrong. First, it is wrong to kill animals, since they are sentient creatures like us. More importantly, though, it is bad for the environment to eat animals, since raising them for the purposes of consumption increases pollution. Finally, it is simply unhealthy, since it causes intestinal problems.

2.

Capital punishment should be abolished. We are never certain that we have actually convicted the right person. It is not true that capital punishment deters other criminals, since some of them are actually not rational so as to be deterred by the threat of capital punishment. Finally, society gets no closure from putting a person to death.

3.

The right to privacy is an important right of every citizen of a nation. A nation’s obligation to protect its citizens from outside threats never overrides its citizens’ right to privacy. So, the government has no justification for metadata surveillance. In addition, meta-data surveillance is not justified because it has never been shown to help protect the citizens of a nation from outside threats.

4.

The defendant is clearly guilty of murder. After all, the murder weapon was a pistol that was bought by and registered to the defendant. And when the pistol was found, the only fingerprints on the pistol belonged to the defendant. Also, two reliable witnesses heard pistol shots, and then identified the defendant as the person running away from the scene. Finally, several people testified that on the morning of the day when the murder occurred, the defendant and the murder victim had a bitter argument, and the defendant had threatened to kill the victim.

5.

Physicalism, which maintains that the mind is identical to the brain, is true. A theory of the relation between mind and brain is true only if the theory can successfully account for how the mind causes the brain, and how the brain causes the mind. Only physicalism can do this.

6.

Marriage is an institution of the government, which regulates the distribution of social benefits, such as taxes and medical rights. It seems unfair to restrict this relation to certain groups, such as heterosexual couples, and exclude other groups, such as homosexual couples, since tax benefits and medical rights have nothing to do with sexual orientation. So, as a matter of justice, it is wrong to allow only certain groups the honor of being married.

7.

Intentionally killing a person is morally wrong. A fetus is a person, since there is no difference between a fetus and a person. So, abortion is intentionally killing a person. So, abortion is morally wrong.

8.

Self-defense is a case in which it is morally permissible to intentionally kill a person. Some cases of abortion are cases of self-defense, for example when the complications of giving birth would kill the mother. So, some cases of abortion are morally permissible.

9.

The United States should strike Syria. First, there is a ban on the use of chemical weapons, and Syria broke the ban. Second, a ban on X without enforcement is an empty threat, and empty threats are a problematic. Finally, an unstable Syria would lead to greater instability in the Middle East, and since that would be bad for the United States, there is a reason to strike to restore stability.

10.

A large amount of income inequality is bad for society. Income inequality causes civil unrest, since people lose a sense of community because of class divisions. Income inequality causes comparative unhappiness, because people become unhappy about what they could have. Income inequality leads to poor decision making for many, since those at the bottom make bad decisions based on their low income. Income equality is preferable, since it does not have these problems.