Text: Stocks

1. When we adhere to a belief because the belief is consistent with other beliefs we hold, we are using the method of ___________ to establish this belief.

   “As I spoke with Jake, it became apparent that he was irritated at me. Since a school social worker is, like a parent, an authority object to a child, and since people transfer emotions directed at one object onto other similar objects, I recognized at once that he was displacing anger at his parents onto me. I asked him if he was angry at his parents. He said that he wasn’t angry with his mother and that his father had been dead since he was five.
   “I immediately picked up that he hadn’t said that he was not angry with his father. This omission was significant, since it is a way to avoid talking about painful content, namely the unacceptable (to Jake) feeling of anger at his father.
   “I pointed out that he had not said that he wasn’t angry at his father and asked him if he was angry with his father for abandoning him at such an early age.
   “Jake answered curtly that he wasn’t angry with his father. He then sarcastically remarked that he didn’t think that his father had intended to die of a stroke.
   “Jake’s use of sarcasm clearly was another attempt to discourage exploration of his conflicted feelings about his father. I decided to postpone exploring this for the present.
   “It is obvious that Jake is in denial about his anger at his father. He feels abandoned by his father and fears that other adult protectors will abandon him. This is why he talks in class rather than attends to lessons. His teachers must attend to him to let him know that they are there for him (that they haven’t abandoned him).”

2.01. What method of fixing belief did this social worker use?

2.02. Why do you think so?
3. Define the following list of terms.
   3.01. statement (proposition):
   3.02. premise:
   3.03. conclusion:
   3.04. argument:
   3.05. necessarily true statement:
   3.06. probably/probabilistically true statement:
   3.07. deductive argument:
   3.08. inductive argument:

4. Logical operators refer to words used to modify the meaning of statements, often by connecting statements in specific relationships with each other.
   Write an original statement for each of the following logical operators and explain how the logical operator has affected the meaning of the original statement or statements (i.e., explain what your statement means). In your explanation, identify the word or words acting as a logical operator in your statement.
   4.01. negation –
       Statement:
       Explanation:
   4.02. conjunction –
       Statement:
       Explanation:
   4.03. inclusive disjunction –
       Statement:
       Explanation:
   4.04. exclusive disjunction –
       Statement:
       Explanation:

5. Assuming that the premises are true, is the following deductive argument a valid argument? Why or why not?
   P₁: “If a person has been convicted of a sex offense, then he or she is listed on the sex offender registry.”
   P₂: “Jane is listed on the sex offender registry.”
   Therefore
   C: “Jane has been convicted of a sex offense.”

6. Which of these statements is the strongest statement? Give the reason for your decision.
   • “Most of our clients are adults.”
   • “Some of our clients have children.”
   • “Very few of our clients have chronic disabilities.”
   • “None of our clients are involuntary referrals.”
   • There is no way to compare the strength of these statements.
7. Which of these arguments has the lowest inductive probability? *Give the reason for your decision.*

- **P:** In 90% of families at our center whose primary concern is parent-adolescent conflict, parents and adolescents incorrectly attribute negative motivations to each other.  
**Therefore**  
**C:** In the next family that we see whose primary concern is parent-adolescent conflict, parents and adolescents will incorrectly attribute negative motivations to each other.

- **P:** In 90% of families at our center whose primary concern is parent-adolescent conflict, parents and adolescents incorrectly attribute negative motivations to each other.  
**Therefore**  
**C:** In both of the next two families that we see whose primary concern is parent-adolescent conflict, parents and adolescents will incorrectly attribute negative motivations to each other.

- **P:** In 90% of families at our center whose primary concern is parent-adolescent conflict, parents and adolescents incorrectly attribute negative motivations to each other.  
**Therefore**  
**C:** In all of the next three families that we see whose primary concern is parent-adolescent conflict, parents and adolescents will incorrectly attribute negative motivations to each other.

- There is no way to compare the inductive probabilities of these arguments.

8. Does the evidence presented in the following inductive argument adequately support the conclusion? Please give the reason for your decision.

“By reducing the length of time a case is open, we help many more clients.  
“When we reduced the average time a case was open to four months we saw 773 clients over a year. In the previous year when cases were open an average of six months, we saw 496 clients.”