Argument Standards Worksheet

NAME _______________________________

Philosophy 130
O’Rourke & Sertler

Argument Standards

A. Mark the following as True or False:

1. Every argument with a false conclusion is invalid. T / F
2. Every argument with a false premise is invalid. T / F
3. Every argument with a false premise and a false conclusion is invalid. T / F
4. Every argument with a false premise and a true conclusion is invalid. T / F
5. Every argument with true premises and a false conclusion is invalid. T / F
6. Every argument with a true conclusion is sound. T / F
7. Every argument with a false conclusion is unsound. T / F

B. Represent these arguments in standard form and then determine whether they are valid and (relative to a context of your choosing) sound.

1. David Letterman is over four feet tall, so he is over two feet tall.

2. Since Jimmy Carter was president, he must have won an election.

3. If all of Illinois were in Canada, then Chicago would be in Canada. But Chicago is not in Canada. Therefore, not all of Illinois is in Canada.
4. There can’t be a largest six-digit number, because six-digit numbers are numbers, and there is no largest number.

5. Either you are going to Horrock’s or you’re going to Meijer. You’re going to Horrock’s, so you must not be going to Meijer.