

What are the different logically possible answers to the question, "Do you have any reasons to assert or deny p ?"

1. I have reasons to assert p .
2. I have reasons not to deny p .
3. I have no reasons to deny p .
4. I have no reasons to assert p .
5. I have reasons not to assert p .
6. I have reasons to deny p .

Relative to asserting p , 2 is stronger than 3, and 1 is stronger than 2. Similarly, relative to denying p , 5 is stronger than 4, and 6 is stronger than 5.

By "stronger than" I mean "requires more or better reasons than." Thus to assert p requires more or better reasons than not to deny p , which itself requires more or better reasons than having no reasons to deny p . And, so, too, with denying p , which requires more or better reasons than not to assert p , which itself requires more and better reasons than having no reasons to assert p .

3 December 2000