

'Induction' (pub. 02.02.13-09:31). Quote in M. Bergman & S. Paavola (Eds.), *The Commens Dictionary: Peirce's Terms in His Own Words. New Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-lessons-history-science-2>.

---

**Term:** Induction

**Quote:** *Induction* is that mode of reasoning which adopts a conclusion as approximate, because it results from a method of inference which must generally lead to the truth in the long run. For example, a ship enters port laden with coffee. I go aboard and sample the coffee. Perhaps I do not examine over a hundred beans, but they have been taken from the middle, top, and bottom of bags in every part of the hold. I conclude by *induction* that the whole cargo has approximately the same value per bean as the hundred beans of my sample. All that induction can do is to ascertain the value of a ratio.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (1896 [c.]). *Lessons of the History of Science*. MS [R] 1288.

**References:** CP 1.67

**Date of** 1896 [c.]

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-lessons-history-science-2>