

'Hypothesis [as a form of reasoning]' (pub. 02.02.13-15:49). 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-letters-f-woods-2>.

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**Term:** Hypothesis [as a form of reasoning]

**Quote:** I have always, since early in the sixties, recognized three different types of reasoning, viz: 1st, *Deduction* which depends on our confidence in our ability to analyze the meanings of the signs in or by which we think; 2nd, *Induction*, which depends upon our confidence that a run of one kind of experience will not be changed or cease without some indication before it ceases; and 3rd, *Retroduction*, or Hypothetic Inference, which depends on our hope, sooner or later, to guess at the conditions under which a given kind of phenomenon will present itself.

Each of these three types occurs in different forms requiring special studies.

From the 1st type to the 3rd the security decreases greatly, while the uberty as greatly increases ... .

I don't think the adoption of a hypothesis on probation can properly be called induction; and yet it is *reasoning* and though its *security* is low, its *uberty* is high.

**Source:** Peirce, C. S. (nd). *Letters to F. A. Woods*.

**References:** CP 8.385-388

**Date of** 1913

**Quote:**

**URL:** <http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-letters-f-woods-2>