Term: Analogy

Quote: The formula of analogy is as follows:-

S', S'', and S''' are taken at random from such a class that their characters at random are such as P', P'', P'''.
t is P', P'', and P'''.
S', S'', and S''' are q;
∴ t is q.

Such an argument is double. It combines the two following:-

1

S', S'', S''' are taken as being P', P'', P'''.
S', S'', S''' are q.
∴ (By induction) P', P'', P''' is q.

t is P', P'', P'''.
∴ (Deductively) t is q.

2

S', S'', S''' are, for instance, P', P'', P'''.
t is P', P'', P''';
∴ (By hypothesis) t has the common characters of S', S'', S'''.

S', S'', S''' are q.
∴ (Deductively) t is q.

Owing to its double character, analogy is very strong with only a moderate number of instances.

Source: Peirce, C. S. (1867). On the Natural Classification of Arguments. *Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences*, *7*, 261-287.

References: W 2:46-47; CP 2.513

Date of Quote: 1867

URL: http://www.commens.org/dictionary/entry/quote-natural-classification-arguments