

## **TESTS OF EVIDENCE**

**REGENCY:** In some cases the dates of the evidence make a difference.

**RELEVANCE:** Evidence should pertain to the point in connection with which it is used.

**INTERNAL CONSISTENCY:** Evidence which does not contradict itself.

**EXTERNAL CONSISTENCY:** Evidence that is consistent with similar data outside itself or with human nature and experience.

**SUFFICIENCY:** The quantity and quality is adequate to be generalized from.

**COMPARATIVE QUALITY:** The best evidence available.

### **TESTS OF STATISTICAL EVIDENCE:**

1. Sets of data which are to be compared should be based upon identical definitions of terms and values of units.
2. Computations of changes in terms of percentages should proceed upon a common base.
3. Sampling error should be avoided by determining that the sample is representative of the universe to be generalized about.
4. All variables which might affect the result should be taken into account.

**TESTS OF SOURCES:** Analyze the qualifications of the source including expertise, bias, ect.

**TESTS OF DOCUMENTATION:** When evidence is important it should be authenticated.

**TEST OF AUDIENCE ACCEPTABILITY:** The content is believable; the content is understood; the source is approved.

**SOURCE:** *Argumentation and Debate*, McBurney and Mills, 1964