Here are three things to note when reconstructing arguments:

1. Sometimes you need to fill in premises that the author hasn't explicitly stated in order to reconstruct their argument. It may require some creativity on your part to figure out the missing premises:

For example, suppose your text reads: "Even white lies are lies and therefore wrong."

The following is not a very good reconstruction of the argument:

A. White lies are lies.
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B. White lies are wrong.

The following is a better reconstruction of the argument:

A. White lies are lies.
B. All lies are wrong.
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C. White lies are wrong.

2. Sometimes a passage will contain a sub-conclusion on the way to the main conclusion.

For example, suppose your text reads: "He won't be home, so he won't be able to water the flowers and they'll die."

This would best be rendered:

A. He won't be home.
B. If he won't be home, he won't be able to water the flowers.
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C. He won't be able to water the flowers.
D. If he won't able to water the flowers, the flowers will die.
--
E. The flowers will die.

3. Sometimes the text will contain a bunch of extraneous information, or keep using different words. Try to get rid of the extraneous information, and to rephrase so the wording is consistent.

For example, suppose your text reads: "A fact that many know but few think about is that a pig is smarter than a dog. So if we're to eat animals based on intelligence -- as indeed we should -- we should not eat pigs but rather dogs, the former, as we noted, being brainier and thus not as appropriate a meal."

 The following is not a very good reconstruction:

A. A fact that few think about is that a pig is smarter than a dog.
B. We should judge moral worth by intelligence.
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C. We should not eat pigs but rather dogs because the former are brainier than the latter.

The following is a better reconstruction:

A. Dogs are less intelligent than pigs.
B. It is better to eat less intelligent animals than to eat more intelligent animals.
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C. It is is better to eat dogs than pigs.

Here are some examples of arguments for you to reconstruct:

1. "Always let your heart do the choosing, because if you choose what excites you (I promise you) that not only will you never be wrong, but when the next "biggest" decision you need to make arrives, you will be exactly where you need to be." — James McKenna "Stay open, don't miss right now" *ND Observer* August 26, 2014.

2. "When your car breaks down on the side of the road, it will do you little good to flag down 30 rubberneckers and canvass them for a majority opinion. Instead, you call an automobile repairman, who has been carefully selected for his extensive knowledge and years of experience. His expertise will likely yield a more accurate diagnosis than that from the misinformed guesswork of the masses. If we as a society so eagerly employ experts to fix our broken cars, we must be prepared to do the same with our "broken" country. Voters who flock to the polls in November to change the nation's government ought to be required to prove their knowledge of that government." — Stephen Raab, "Block the Vote" *ND Observer* August 27 2014.
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Bonus Questions

1. "It is indeed an opinion strangely prevailing amongst men, that houses, mountains, rivers, and in a word all sensible objects, have an existence, natural or real, distinct from their being perceived by the understanding. But, with how great an assurance and acquiescence soever this principle may be entertained in the world, yet whoever shall find in his heart to call it in question may, if I mistake not, perceive it to involve a manifest contradiction. For, what are the fore-mentioned objects but the things we perceive by sense? and what do we perceive besides our own ideas or sensations?" — George Berkeley, *A Treatise Concerning the Principles of Human Knowledge*

2. "Every state is a community of some kind, and every community is established with a view to some good; for mankind always act in order to obtain that which they think good. But, if all communities aim at some good, the state or political community, which is the highest of all, and which embraces all the rest, aims at good in a greater degree than any other, and at the highest good." — Aristotle, *Politics*