THE POWERFUL-PROVABLE PRIMER

The Question Type Framework
The Questions, Simplified

Onwards to the question stem! We've spent the first half of this book exploring the stimulus in depth. Now we're ready to apply the skill set we've built to choosing correct answers.

But the question types can get complicated. There are a ton of them! When students rush to doing full timed LR sections without a strong foundation, the questions can get really frustrating. Students don't understand why certain answers are right because they don't understand argumentation, what the question wants them to do, and what the metrics of success for answer choices are. It's a mess. But even when students do have a strong foundation, they will sometimes still fall prey to the answer choices. The LSAT is hard, man. Here's the struggle, distilled into a frequent dialogue from my life a few years ago:

student: Why is this answer wrong?
me: It's too strong… [long explanation about why that's bad in this instance]
student: OK, so just never choose strong answers.
me: *gasp* WOAH! Hold on… It's not like never. Sometimes you want strong answers, just not now.
student: OK, so, uh… sometimes don't choose strong answers?
me: *single tear streams down face*

This exchange benefits no one. The student understandably feels like they can't win. They're damned if they do and damned if they don't. For every question where they get in trouble for choosing an answer that's too strong, there's another question where they get in trouble for choosing an answer that's not strong enough. But there's a solution. It's called Powerful-Provable, and it's the easiest way to find the correct answer:

**EVERY CORRECT ANSWER ON THE LSAT IS EITHER POWERFUL OR PROVABLE**

Every Logical Reasoning question type wants either a powerful correct answer or a provable correct answer. Each question type wants the same thing every time, so we can split the question types into two categories, those looking for powerful correct answers and those looking for provable correct answers.

A Powerful Question will have a powerful correct answer.

*The more powerful the answer choice, the more likely it is to be correct.*

A Provable Question will have a provable correct answer.

*The more provable the answer choice, the more likely it is to be correct.*

Now, we're going to place the question types (and soon the answer choice types!) along the Powerful-Provable Spectrum. The Powerful-Provable Spectrum is simple. Powerful types are on the left, and Provable types are on the right.