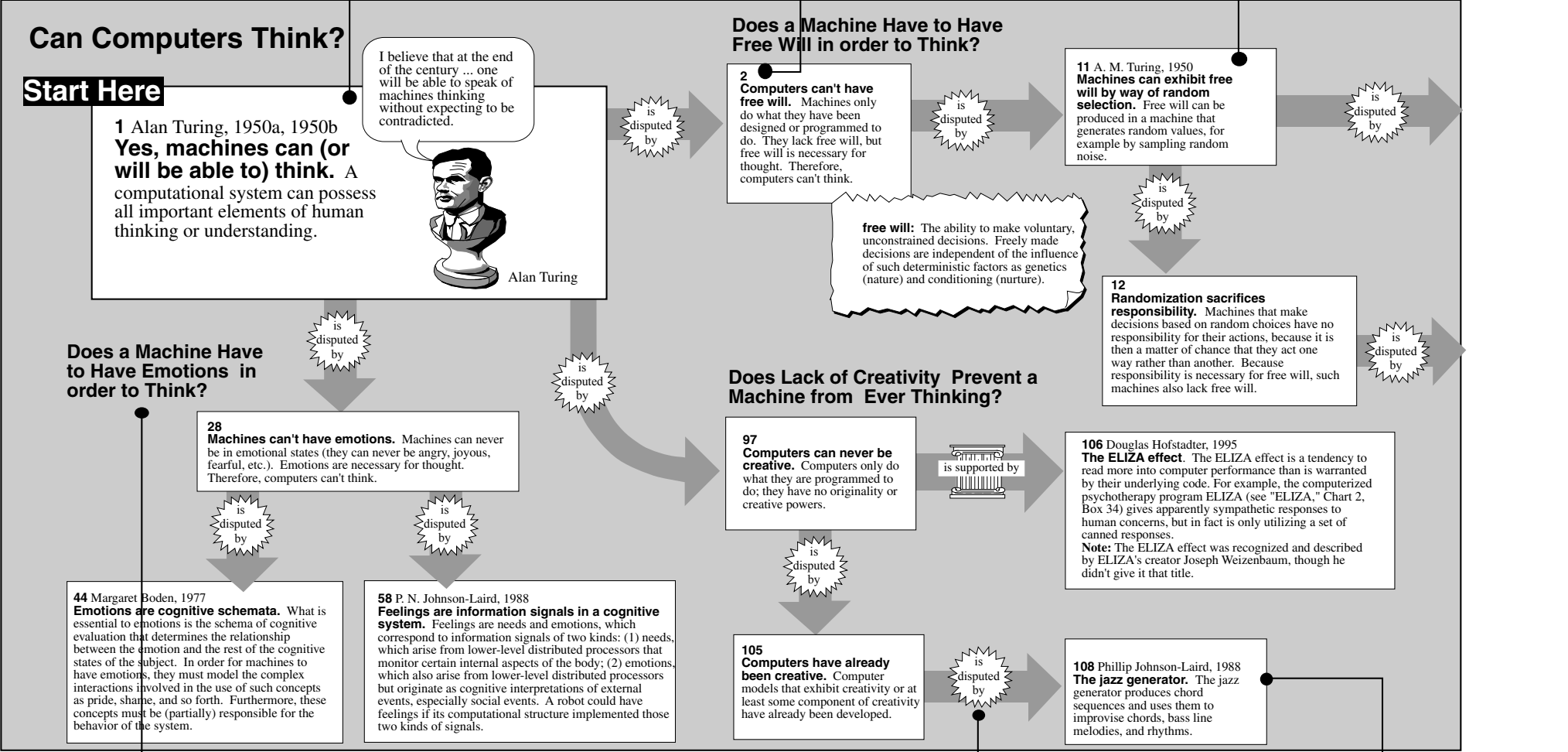


Figure 2. Detail of Argumentation Maps

Claims
 Debates start with claims, which have been defined by Toulmin as "assertions put forward publicly for general acceptance with the implication that there are underlying 'reasons' that could show them to be 'well founded' and therefore entitled to be generally accepted." (Toulmin, et. al. 1979)

Rebuttals
 The rebuttal presents the possible exceptions or objections as to why the claim may not hold for the situation under discussion. There is no debate without at least one rebuttal.

Counterrebuttals
 Debates then continue through a series of contributions that dispute previous claims and other rebuttals. The counterrebuttals may or may not be made by the original claimant.



Major topics of the debate.
 Debates frequently divide into topic areas which can be shown as regions in the mapping of the debate by putting them all together in one area and giving them a title. The example here shows the initial claims boxes of three regions, identified with the questions in bold face.

History of the debate.
 The sequence of claims and rebuttals provides a particular way of looking at the intellectual history of the debate. This provides students with a context in which to organize their thoughts about the issue.

Status of the debate
 Because of the overall treelike nature of the chart, readers can see easily where the debate has moved to as of the publication of the chart. This also permits those with an interest to continue the debate along lines of their particular insights.