



7.9 Analysis of Argumentation

This activity builds advanced argumentation skills. In this activity, students identify the elements of argumentation in newspaper articles. It is a good way to introduce basic concepts of logic in argumentation. This activity can be used as a supplement to an introductory lesson on argumentation.

Time Allotment

20-30 minutes

Objectives

By the end of this activity, students will:

- be introduced to argument structure and logic.
- be able to identify arguments in a text.

Materials and Preparation

One or two short articles that make arguments

Method

Tell students to read the articles, in groups or individually, with a focus on identifying the elements of argumentation within the articles.

Elements of argumentation can be broken down either into “claims and warrants”, or into “assertion, reasoning, and evidence.”

Remind students to think about the intent or bias of the author of the article, and how the facts (and opposing viewpoints) are represented as a result of the intentions of the author.

When students are finished, you can have a class discussion or small group discussions about the articles.