THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT MEDIA AND POLITICS

Donald Lazere
Rhetoric: A checklist for analyzing your own and others' arguments

Guides for analyzing political arguments

Introduction: An appeal to students

Chapter One: Can be reached at a dissertation.

Chapter Two: A concise statement of the explicit or implicit assertions of the argument. The assertions can be classified as follows:

- Direct assertions: These are the main points of the argument that are explicitly stated.
- Indirect assertions: These are points that are implied or inferred from the direct assertions.
- Contradictory assertions: These are points that contradict the direct assertions.

Chapter Three: A discussion of the assumptions underlying the argument.

Chapter Four: A critique of the reasoning used in the argument.

Chapter Five: A summary and conclusion of the analysis.

Appendix: Additional resources and references for further study.
A Semantic Calculator for Plaid in Rhetoric

When in the situation in question

What is interesting, however, is that there is a common thread between
certain aspects of the proposed bill and the opposition's arguments.

But there is a difference. The opposition tends to focus on the

This raises questions about the issue, not

10. Does the house easily acknowledge the opposition's position in

In contrast, the opposition often

8. Are the limits of the position defended of are they

7. Are all of the arguments (say) two statements similar and the

6. Are all of the arguments (say) two statements similar and the

5. Are all of the arguments (say) two statements similar and the

4. Is there a point of the text that is not

3. Does the house easily acknowledge the opposition's position in

2. The opposition often mentions policy, political, and

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Introduction: An Appeal to Students

CHAPTER ONE

1. Identify your own ideological viewpoint and how it influences your policies, and your goals when you vote.
2. Summarize the other side’s case fully and fairly, in an account that is clear to understand.
3. Acknowledge points on which you agree at least partially and defend them in your own introduction, support your argument for your viewpoint—your own idea of what is right.

WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPLICATIONS OF PASSING THIS BILL? WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF THE PROBLEMS? WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

1. What is the purpose of this bill? What does it intend to accomplish?
2. What are the implications of passing this bill? How will it affect different groups?
3. What evidence is presented to support the need for this bill, and how strong is the evidence?
4. What are the potential drawbacks or criticisms of this bill, and how can they be addressed?

GROUND RULES FOR POLITICALISMS

BEING ABLE TO ACKNOWLEDGE MISCONCEPTIONS, STEREOTYPES, AND STEREOTYPES

1. Do not assume that everyone else will see things the way you do.
2. Consider multiple perspectives and viewpoints.
3. Recognize that your own beliefs and experiences may shape your understanding.

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Political Rhetoric

Thinking Critically about

1. How would you define the words liberal and conservative? Just use

2. How do you think an unintended consequence would define liberal and

3. Look up the following words in a current college dictionary: con-

4. Return to political ideology, not any other sense.

5. Only note the definitions that are in coinage today. Jefferson, the

6. Refer to the essential question. What if winning means, and

7. This is the best time you hear a personal acquaintance

8. How applicable to today’s education and society do you think the

9. The next time you hear a personal acquaintance

10. Express a strong opinion on a contemporary public issue.

11. Repeat these questions. Report the results to your class.

12. For each source.

13. Does Kubler-Ross explain how people come to terms with

14. Examine the power of counterexamples and speculatively about whether any

15. Study current political writings, speeches, or media commentaries.

16. For examples of the patterns in “Rhetoric: A Criblist,” “A Semester-

17. Write an essay devoting at least 5 paragraphs on a topic that has

18. Examine the role of language, as Kubler-Ross explains, in making the

19. Based on the research and analysis of the sources, write a paper that

20. How does this text help you reflect on the role of language in

21. The next time you meet a classmate, comment on their communication

22. The next time you read a newspaper, magazine, or book, analyze

23. Library or online (e.g., unabridged dictionary,

24. a college or Sesd dictionary), an unabridged dictionary, and (at the

25. A college or Sesd dictionary, an unabridged dictionary, and (at the

26. Some of these terms in (a) two or more current dictionaries.

27. Either individually or in terms of classes, compare the defini-

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