

Argument Acquisition Tool

I. Some common strategies for finding an argument:

- Follow your opinions
- Take a position
- Deductive and inductive methods
- They say/I say elaboration on taking a position
- Find the central question of inquiry and answer that
- Listing/bulleting
- 3 perspectives — describe it, trace it, map it
- Cubing — describe it, compare it, associate it, analyze it, apply it, argue
- Argue for/against it
- Create a simile
- Clustering/mapping/webbing
- Journalistic questions — who, what, how, when, where, why?

“As you finish each paper, jot down some ideas for topics you would like to know more about. As you start developing opinions about what you have read, jot those thoughts down, too, and ask yourself what those opinions are based on. Writing down such thoughts will help self-provoke intellectual engagement with the material, which is an essential ingredient in the recipe for success.

Eventually, you will begin coming up with original ideas, interesting things you hadn’t thought about before, and then you will be ready to draft a thesis statement that both you and your readers will find interesting.”

And farther on:

“Refine your draft thesis statement as you keep reading, and as you keep writing, until you have a statement that you find interesting, that is not self-evident, and that requires support. This statement will fuel the entire project ... There’s something magical about thesis statements and where they come from. As you continue to read and think and write, they just mysteriously appear.”

II. Some types of arguments:

Common Understanding and Complication/s — tension between how others have traditionally seen something and some complication to that view

Whole and Part — tension between the whole and a part

Part and Part — tension between two parts of the whole

Form and Function — tension between a structure and what it accomplishes

Presence and Absence — tension between something you expect to be present and its actual absence

Expectation and Observation — tension between what you expect to find and what you actually find

III. Subject—Purpose—Argument—Method—Audience—Value—Approach/Strategy

IV. Mike's Instant Pot for Argument Acquisition

mike's instant pot for
argument acquisition

time trials
&
looping

assembly

feynman
method

non-
experts,
experts,
&
Experts