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/buleting
   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