

COMP2x0/VR220
Portfolio Development/
Worksheet Support

Week 3: Defending an Argument



Poster marks allocation

COMP2x0

- Threshold: 30%
- Description of architecture: 10%
- UML diagram: 10%
- Appropriateness of artefact design: 15%
- Context for practice-based research: 10%
- Defence of argument: 10%
- Appropriateness of practice-based research methods: 10%
- Academic conventions: 5%

VR220

- Threshold: 15%
- Explanations and discussions of technical elements of the project: 10%
- Description of project objectives and their justification: 10%
- Reflection on the artefact: 15%

What is an Argument?

“An **argument** is a **statement or set of statements** that you use in order to try to **convince** people that your opinion about something is correct.”

Collins English Dictionary

Poster requirements:

Justify key **development choices** and **design decisions**

Discussion: When to get defensive

Discussion: How to convince people

Argument Aims (3 Ps)

Source: <https://www.ucas.com/file/62641/download?token=sZT0YGZN>

Keep it factual:

- Experimental evidence
- Scientific studies/research
- Statistics

- **Put forward** the reasons **for** your claim, backed up with **examples** and **evidence**
- **Provide reasons** for your audience to **reject** opposing or alternative views
 - Consider any **objections** or **alternatives** that might be raised to your claim and **refute** them
- **Persuade** your audience to **accept** your conclusion

Weigh up pros and cons

Summarise how the good outweighs the bad

Activity: Evaluating Arguments

On this week's [Padlet](#):

- Read 2-3 of the opinions
- Leave a comment/attach a post to say:
 - Did the author **convince** you of their claim?
 - What **techniques** did they use or **reasons** did they give to support their argument?
 - Did they consider any **alternative** opinions?
 - Anything else you noticed.

Discussion: Persuasion Techniques

Asynchronous Task: Defending a Claim

- Think of an **opinion** that you hold
 - Can be on anything – serious or frivolous!
 - The more **unpopular** or **uncommon**, the better
- Write a short piece (one or two paragraphs) to **convince** other people that your opinion has merit
 - Use any of the techniques we've discussed – with a preference for **fact-based reasoning**!
- Post your piece (with your claim as the title) in this week's Teams channel
- Read one or two other people's arguments (preferably ones you disagree with) and post comments to say whether they have **convinced** you and/or point out any **objections** or **alternatives**.

Suggestions:

- The best video game for someone who's never played before
- Which is better: Marvel or DC?
- PC or Mac?
- Which goes on a scone first, jam or cream?