Here’s one of many methods for brainstorming and developing arguments

- Brainstorm and note the most compelling reasons the accused is guilty

-- Under each reason supporting guilt, list the specific evidence supporting that conclusion

-- Explain how the evidence connects

-- Explain the significance and strength of the evidence

-- Explain how Instructions pertain to the evidence

--- Ex. “The Judge will instruct you to consider the potential bias of a witness. Bias is present with SSgt Smith…”

-- List the rationale that leads from evidence to conclusion

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| Compelling reason  (Argument 1) | Evidence | Explain the significance of or issue with the evidence | Connect to conclusion and overarching argument |
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- List the problems and challenges in the case (likely to be raised by defense)

-- List the evidence raising the challenge

-- Explain the significance, issues, and counters to defense use of the evidence

-- List the evidence countering the challenge

-- Explain how Instructions pertain to the evidence

-- List your rationale (e.g. why the challenge is not controlling; how it should be treated)

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| Challenging issue  (Argument #) | Evidence raising a challenge | Explain significance of or issue with evidence | Evidence countering the challenge | Rationale as to how to treat the evidence and overarching challenge |
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- Each of these points constitutes an argument that is supported by evidence and your rationale

- Each argument can be used in closing, or as fodder for developing examinations