



BES-103 CRITICAL THINKING

Step by step analysis of argument



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Agenda

- Pinpointing Issues
- Identifying Arguments
- Seeking Clarity
- Understanding Context
- Finding Credibility
- Looking for Consistency

Example

▷ Issue: Should schools require students to wear uniforms?

Identifying Arguments

The next step is to identify the arguments being made in relation to the issue. Arguments can be expressed in a variety of ways, including statements, claims, evidence, and counterarguments. By identifying these different components, you can better understand the reasoning behind each argument and evaluate their strength.

Example

For: Schools should require students to wear uniforms.

Argument 1: Uniforms create a sense of unity and equality among students, regardless of socio-economic status or fashion preferences.

Argument 2: Uniforms eliminate distractions caused by fashion choices, allowing students to focus on learning.

Argument 3: Uniforms promote safety by making it easier to identify intruders or unauthorized visitors on campus

Continue

- ▷ **Against:** Schools should not require students to wear uniforms.
- ▷ **Argument 1:** Uniforms stifle students' creativity and self-expression, leading to a lack of individuality.
- ▷ **Argument 2:** Uniforms can be expensive, creating an undue financial burden on families.
- ▷ **Argument 3:** There is no evidence that uniforms improve academic performance or reduce disciplinary issues.

Seeking Clarity

Once you have identified the arguments, it is important to seek clarity on the meaning and intent behind them. This could involve asking for further explanation or clarification of key terms, or questioning any assumptions or presuppositions that underlie the arguments.

Example

In order to clarify the arguments being made, we could ask for further explanation or examples of how uniforms create a sense of unity and equality, how they eliminate distractions, or how they stifle creativity and self-expression.

Understanding Context

Context is an important factor in understanding arguments. This could include the social, political, or cultural context in which the argument is being made, as well as any historical or scientific context that is relevant to the issue. By understanding the context, you can better appreciate the relevance and implications of the arguments being made.

Example

The context of the argument could include the social, cultural, and economic factors that affect students and families, as well as the history of school dress codes and uniform policies.

Finding Credibility

Evaluating the credibility of the sources and evidence used to support arguments is an important part of analyzing an argument. This could involve assessing the qualifications, expertise, and reputation of the author or speaker, as well as evaluating the quality and relevance of the evidence being presented.

Example

To evaluate the credibility of the arguments, we could assess the expertise and reputation of the sources presenting them, as well as the quality and relevance of any evidence or research cited.

Looking for Consistency

Finally, it is important to look for consistency in the arguments being made. This could involve assessing the logical coherence of the arguments, as well as evaluating how well they align with other relevant evidence or arguments. By looking for consistency, you can better evaluate the strength and validity of the arguments being made.

Activity

- ▷ "Should plastic bags be banned?"
- ▷ If you agree or disagree to the above statement, apply Step by step analysis of argument.
- ▷ Pinpointing Issues
- ▷ Identifying Arguments
- ▷ Seeking Clarity
- ▷ Understanding Context
- ▷ Finding Credibility
- ▷ Looking for Consistency

Activity

- ▷ Should the death penalty be abolished?
- ▷ "Should the use of cell phones be allowed in schools?"