**Student Resources**

***A Case-Based Approach to Argumentative Writing***

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* **Includes Writing Assignment**

**Chapter Four: Discussing Arguments and Cases**

**Key Concepts:**

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| **Rhetorical Listening-** “stance of openness that a person may choose to assume in relation to any person, text, or culture” (Ratcliffe 17).  **Rhetorical Stance-** Determining the writer’s role or behavior in relation to a case, topic, or issue. |

**Learning Objectives:**

* Understand discussion as a learnable skill.
* Articulate do’s and don’ts for a successful discussion.
* Identify resources to use for preparing for and participating in discussions.
* Recognize differences between small and large group discussions and what to do after the discussion is over.

**Quiz: Discussing argument and cases**

**Directions: Choose your answer to the following questions.**

1. According to the authors of your textbook, which of the following describe the four basic elements to a successful discussion?
2. Charity, Nuance, Rigidity, Claims
3. Common Sense, Agreement, Reasons, Evidence
4. Preparation, Participation, Reflection on discussion, Listening
5. Aggression, Turn taking, Listening, Dissenting
6. According to the authors of your textbook, which of the following is a guideline for effective participation?
7. Reading one source about the case
8. Relying on your experiences to draw conclusions about the case
9. Interrupting others when they try to participate
10. Explore connections between different parts of the case
11. According to the authors of your textbook, which statement is not a benefit of engaged listening?
12. Makes you look smart
13. Broadens your perspective
14. Increases your knowledge
15. Builds trust with peers
16. According to the authors of your textbook, which of the following is a phrase associated with engaged listening?
17. Can you explain more why you think?
18. You are wrong
19. No one really believes in
20. Everyone knows that already
21. According to the authors of your textbook, which of the following will help you prepare for small group discussions?
22. I will only record the group’s notes
23. What can I bring to the group?
24. Only skimming the group’s assigned reading
25. Skipping the group meeting

**Sample Writing Assignment**

**Proposal Argument**

A proposal argument is a type of argument that looks toward the future. It identifies a policy that *should* take place or become law. The policy is designed to fix or solve a problem. A proposal argument takes into consideration the many stakeholders and variables associated with an issue.

**Purpose:**

* To gain practice describing, defining, and analyzing a rhetorical problem from multiple angles
* To show and an understanding of the complexities of a contemporary issue/ problem.
* To gain practice critically reading and evaluating sources
* To research a problem and develop a proposal argument that is supported with arguments designed to convince, persuade, and achieve both purposes.
* To synthesize your own ideas with the ideas of others, using a combination of summary, paraphrase, and direct quote strategies.
* To use the writing process to craft more effective communication for your audience.

**Audience:** Resistant voices- the people you might imagine that will likely disagree with your policy position but are open-minded and reasonable; they are interested in what you have to say.

**Task:** This assignment requires you to use your research skills as you continue to examine and learn more about a contemporary issue. You will analyze the rhetorical and contextual nature of the problem and then compose a well-crafted, evidenced based policy proposal argument that takes a stance on an issue. Part of your goal is to think carefully through an issue and determine a course of action that fits the rhetorical situation of the problem. You are crafting an argument that is an appropriate response, given the available evidence.

**Requirements**:

**Schedule of Activities and Due dates**