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Essential Concepts to Understand Argumentation

All writing begins in the mind, with a single thought. One light bulb, ignited somehow by the world around the essayist. From this idea, a cataclysm of creativity is created, and an essay is born. Flowing quickly like a stream but as vast as an ocean, thoughts engulf the mind of the writer. Letter by letter, word by word, and phrase by phrase, a construct of incredible magnitude comes to enkindle a conversation between the writer and reader, influencing a new thought pattern in the latter. The author implants a resilient virus, known simply as an idea, which is impossible to eradicate. Once this idea has been born in another mind, the writer’s goal has been accomplished.

Of course, to be a powerful writer, there are a series of steps to understand and concepts to follow. When building a house, the first important feature is to structure a foundation so the house won’t collapse upon itself. The same with any construction, a solid foundation is key to holding together. The ideologies an essay conveys may not be tangible, nevertheless, without a base to build on no essay could possibly come together. Of course there are several different types of essays, yet they all have the same goal: to persuade the reader, to birth a new idea in their mind.

One of the most powerful forms of writing to accomplish this goal is an argument essay. Arguments are how anything gets done in the world. Without opposing ideas, nothing can be accomplished. As the pen is mightier than the sword, an argument is perhaps the efficacious “pen” there is to be wielded. Because argument relies upon two opposing ideas, however, it can easily become a double edged sword. There’s nothing wrong with wielding a double edged sword, granted the wielder can properly use it.

To begin an argument, the writer must first understand the argument. The writer must pull themselves out of the world, and with neutral, unbiased eyes, gaze upon and observe the argument. Understanding both sides with no conflicting beliefs is vital to a powerful argument. Once the essayist has gathered their information, they look away from the argument, and reflect upon what they have seen. Reflection births several thoughts in the author’s mind, and in pure reflection the one pondering must contemplate both the good and the bad in both sides of the argument.

Within the reflection there is an analysis that will create the stand the writer takes, this is known as Rhetorical analysis. Of all humans, on average each individual spends 95% of their time with rhetorical thinking. Rhetoric is based often on emotion and can be seen as prejudice or bigotry. While such thinking has no place in say the world of business, this same analysis is vital to argument. To recognize emotions and to play on them is the easiest and often most effective way to lead and persuade the audience.

Once the information has been gathered and analyzed to reveal every important detail, a bias must be born. The one bias that should ever appear in an argument, comes in evaluating the information. Evaluate, compare, contrast, and just scan all data collected so that the bias of choosing which side to take can be made. If biases are harmful to a great argument, than why is this one necessary? This is because no argument can be made without taking a stand on one side of the argument. It would no longer be an argument if all that the “essay” revealed was research done. As a professional arguer, understand both sides and be able to defend both well, but then choose the one that better fits the bias chosen.

Now, the arguer has reached the final step, the final destination in their long journey of preparedness. They must propose a solution. The arguer could present the side they’ve chosen for eternity, but the whole point of argument is to take two opposing ideas and fix the conflict between them. Whether the solution is simply agreeing with one side, or compromising between oppositions, or a new idea altogether, an argument without a solution is just empty words. Never forget, however, that the solution must be explained like every part of the argument it solves, so the reader will succumb to the arguer’s one goal: change the thoughts of the reader.