

Brainstorming Argumentation

When writing a persuasive paper, it is important to decide not only *what* to argue, but *how* to argue it. This activity will help you brainstorm a variety of ways to defend your principal claim.

First, write 1-2 sentences explaining the main argument that you want to make in your paper. (Example: “Tipping in restaurants should be replaced with another way to reward good service.”)

Principal Claim:

Now, write potential arguments supporting your principal argument. Refer to *Controversies*, Chapter 8, for more information about each of these argument topics.

Induction:

Analogy:

Difference:

Correlation:

Definition:

Causation:

Lastly, review the arguments you have just written. Are some of these arguments more likely to have an impact on your intended audience than others? Are any of them flawed? Do you notice any overlap or arguments that could potentially work well together? Answering these questions will help you determine which topic(s) of argument you should utilize in your persuasive paper.