

Argument Example Assignment (5%)

Step 1: Find an argument.

Look on the internet, in magazines or newspapers, or transcribe a conversation you hear, ... (It can **not** be an example from the textbook, or that we've previously seen in class.) It should be short enough to fit on one slide. You can shorten a longer argument if necessary.

Step 2: Identify the argument's structure.

Expectations for which structures you should identify will shift as the course goes on. The structure you identify should be relevant to what we've been discussing in the past week's classes, or what we will be discussing in the upcoming week. For example, for Chapter 1, you would identify the conclusion and premises. For Chapter 2, you might identify an appeal to popularity or stereotyping. For Chapter 3, you might say whether the argument is valid, invalid, or sound, and identify a structure like modus ponens. And so on.

Step 3: Make a slide.

Your slide must include (minimum 30 pt. font):

- the argument written out (shortened if necessary)
- an indication of the structures you've identified, plus any necessary explanations
- the source of the argument (minimum 16 pt. font).

Optional things to include:

- your name or a pseudonym (you can also choose to be anonymous)
- additional commentary or context for the argument
- colour, pictures, sounds, etc.

Formatting:

- use landscape (wide), not portrait (tall) orientation
- please fit everything on a single page
- save as a Powerpoint or PDF file (for Word or graphics files, print to PDF).

Your slide must NOT include: swearing (unless bleeped out), hate speech, personal comments about classmates, or anything else likely to offend. If it can't reasonably be shown in class, you may be asked to re-do the assignment (time permitting).

Step 4: Email your slide to catherine.stinson@ryerson.ca at least 36 hours before class.

- make sure your name is included in the email, in case it's not on your slide
- if your slide is late, it might need to be pushed to the next class, in which case the argument structure may not be current anymore.

Step 5: See your slide being used in class!

- It's possible that small corrections might need to be made to the argument structures you identify. The class will help make any small corrections. This is no big deal.
- If there are too many submissions at once, your slide may be shown later, or not at all. Apologies to anyone whose slide has to be skipped. You'll still get your grade!
- If major corrections are necessary, you'll be offered options to make corrections (time permitting), allow the class to make corrections, or have your slide skipped.

Submissions with formatting problems, structures that aren't current, major errors, or highly inappropriate content will have points taken off.