



Evidence!

You Need It. Yes, You do.



Overview

- Argumentation Generation
- Importance of Evidence
- How to
 - Sources
 - Good v. Bad Evidence
 - Examples
- Analysis
- Formatting
- Ways to file



Argumentation Generation

3 Steps



Step 1: Brainstorm 4 Generic Arguments

Not Knowledgeable

- Google
- First 4 arguments/ articles- create stance (“Neg heavy” v. “Aff heavy”)
- Objective?: Read through, find more cites

Knowledgeable

- Write down 4 arguments
- Goal= think of stock arguments the other side would make

Goal= prep. Off of opposing side

Why do it this way?

1. Avoid stolen arguments
2. You prepare for the round that happens!
3. Preemptively think through refutation points

Step 2: For every argument, allow 30 seconds to think of 2-3 instant rebuttals

- **A.** If you get an AFF argument that starts with “This bill will...”, your refutation claim should immediately begin with the converse: “This bill will NOT...” And vice versa.
 - Help logically turn argument
- **B.** Do not give yourself more than one minute per argument!
 - Fits proper time allocation/ prep. Time
 - Judges like better- link chains are clear

Example

This bill will lead to economic growth because it will spur domestic oil development.” → TURN → “This bill will NOT lead to economic growth because 1) domestic oil development will cause gas prices to be unreasonably high for the average consumer, 2) all jobs created will be short-term and thus the AFF’s impacts are overstated, and 3) foreign oil producers will see this action as offensive and begin to increase the price of our imported oil, therefore increasing the price of oil (and decreasing the demand for it) from all directions.

Step 3: Choose strongest rebuttal- expand using good sources

- Is argument/ source understandable?
- Less is more!
 - Until you develop the understanding of how to extend analysis, focus on logical connections in your argument



Importance



Importance [of evidence]

- Used to legitimize your argument
- Credibility you need- the “ethos” of the tripod that helps you as a speaker



How to Find Reliable Evidence



How to Find Evidence

Basic

- Start at google
- Type in the focus of action (or actor)
- Read articles for basic knowledge
- Scroll to find relevant article titles
- Make note of the green URL/make sure cite is legitimate and recent
- Narrow in on important articles and cut

Advanced

- Search google for specific advocacy or start at specific cite/database
- Narrow in on specific sections of the legislation and search
- Skim to find relevant articles/legitimate sources
- Save articles (or continue to cut cards)

Reminder: The more specific
your search, the more diverse
research.

Read the entire text of the
legislation- after doing some
brief research you should be
able to narrow down your focus
to certain subjects or aspects

Example: Instead of simply
searching “North Korea
Sanctions” search for “effects
of North Korean sanctions on
[economy, people, Asian region,
etc.]”

Legitimate Sources

- **Newspapers** (National; locals are appropriate depending on the topic)
- **Think Tanks** (Be careful though, most of these have some sort of bias)
- **Databases** (These are the best! Watch out for outdated sources)
- **Journals** (These are also great)
- **Magazines** (Must be national- be smart about it)
- **Schools** (Colleges, Universities)
- **Notable Figures** (Professors, specific authors writing for another source)

Good Evidence

- Properly cited
- Summarized and explained
- Long enough to provide reasoning
- Detailed
- Explains WHY or HOW
- Recent

Bad Evidence

- Not cited/ poorly cited
 - Directly quoted (unless a direct quote for a specific purpose but even at that point it's probably not necessary)
 - 1 sentence or less
 - General, recap of the claim
 - Outdated (unless strategically used)
- *Exception: application evidence

Example (“Card”)

Matt Egan writer for CNN “Boko Haram threatens Nigeria’s economic future” CNN May 12, 2014

<http://money.cnn.com/2014/05/12/investing/nigeria-kidnapping-investing/>

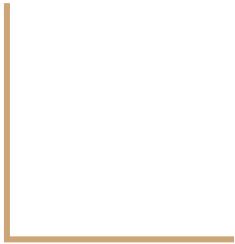
“But this bullish backdrop is being threatened by Boko Haram, the Islamist group behind the massive kidnappings. Their four year insurgency has cost more than 4,000 lives, destroyed countless schools and government buildings and displaced almost 500,000 people, according to the International Crisis Group. Unless the government implements “comprehensive plans to tackle not only insecurity but also the injustices that drive much of the troubles, Boko Haram, or groups like it, will continue to destabilize large parts of the country,” the organization said in an alert issued last month before the kidnappings occurred. Boko Haram, which the U.S. government has deemed a terrorist organization, controls parts of northern Nigeria, terrorizing citizens by burning down villages and executing abductions like the ones that have captured international attention.”

You want to “summarize and explain” your cite- not directly quote

Summarized Example (“Card”)

Matt Egan writer for CNN “Boko Haram threatens Nigeria’s economic future” CNN May 12, 2014 <http://money.cnn.com/2014/05/12/investing/nigeria-kidnapping-investing/>
“Boko Haram controls Northern Nigeria- burning down villages, executing abductions, and terrorizing citizens. This Congress has labeled them as a terrorist organization, but Nigeria’s government has done nothing to eliminate the group; and until they implement plans to conquer the insecurity and vulnerability, Boko Haram will reign.”

Evidence in Impacts



Evidence in impacts

- Follows the same outline as using evidence in point
- BUT it's much shorter (unless using an unique structure)
- Introduce properly “the impact is explained by...” or “the impact is quantified by...”

Evidence in Impacts

Matt Egan writer for CNN “Boko Haram threatens Nigeria’s economic future”
CNN May 12, 2014 <http://money.cnn.com/2014/05/12/investing/nigeria-kidnapping-investing/>

“But this bullish backdrop is being threatened by Boko Haram, the Islamist group behind the massive kidnappings. Their four year insurgency has cost more than 4,000 lives, destroyed countless schools and government buildings and displaced almost 500,000 people, according to the International Crisis Group. Unless the government implements “comprehensive plans to tackle not only insecurity but also the injustices that drive much of the troubles, Boko Haram, or groups like it, will continue to destabilize large parts of the country,” the organization said in an alert issued last month before the kidnappings occurred. Boko Haram, which the U.S. government has deemed a terrorist organization, controls parts of northern Nigeria, terrorizing citizens by burning down villages and executing abductions like the ones that have captured international attention.”

Quantifiable (otherwise literature):

The impact, according CNN in May 2014, is a loss of 4,000 lives, deterioration of schools, and 500,000 displaced persons.

Analysis



Applying Analysis

- Use the traditional “if_____then_____”
 - This means having evidence long enough to fill in the above formula
- This will create the logical flow from your evidence to your impacts

Extending Analysis

For the basics: C-E-C

- **Clarify:**
 - Discuss anything confusing about the evidence/anything left out/ explanation of how it's prevalent
- **Elaborate:**
 - Expand on where the evidence left off- what else is missing that I need to know?
- **Connect:**
 - Back to the argument, advocacy, claim, legislation, etc.

Summarizing then analysis

Matt Egan, for CNN, on May 12th, 2014 writes that Boko Haram controls Northern Nigeria- burning down villages, executing abductions, and terrorizing citizens. While the U.S. Has labeled the group as a terrorist organization, Nigeria's government has done little to nothing trying to eliminate the group; and until they implement comprehensive plans to conquer the insecurity and vulnerability Boko Haram will reign. [Link to legislation...](#)

Summarizing with analysis

Matt Egan, for CNN, on May 12th, 2014 writes that Boko Haram controls Northern Nigeria- burning down villages, executing abductions, and terrorizing citizens. That would seem like a legitimate reason to increase diplomatic aid and affirm but it's not because Nigeria's government has done nothing to eliminate the group. We've labeled the group as a terrorist organization because of the injustices and atrocities they've committed but until Nigeria's government implements comprehensive plans to conquer the impacts, it would be unproductive to increase diplomatic and trade relations with the nation.

Formatting



How to Format a Card

- Cite: Author (credentials), name of article, date, URL
- Card should be 5-12 sentences long
- Card should be in quotations

Matt Egan writer for CNN "Boko Haram threatens Nigeria's economic future" CNN **May 12, 2014** <http://money.cnn.com/2014/05/12/investing/nigeria-kidnapping-investing/>
"But this bullish backdrop is being threatened by Boko Haram, the Islamist group behind the massive kidnappings. Their four year insurgency has cost more than 4,000 lives, destroyed countless schools and government buildings and displaced almost 500,000 people, according to the International Crisis Group. Unless the government implements "comprehensive plans to tackle not only insecurity but also the injustices that drive much of the troubles, Boko Haram, or groups like it, will continue to destabilize large parts of the country," the organization said in an alert issued last month before the kidnappings occurred. Boko Haram, which the U.S. government has deemed a terrorist organization, controls parts of northern Nigeria, terrorizing citizens by burning down villages and executing abductions like the ones that have captured international attention."

Where to Save



Cutting Cards

- Better for novices
- Easier to find what you're looking for
- Organized

- Time consuming
- Limited cards- may be taken by teammates

Filing

- Preferred by varsity
- Easy to save
- Endless amounts of information

- Misleading based on title of article
- Takes up a lot of space

Where do you save your
research?