

# Arguing to Inquire

When you argue as a means of inquiry, you use argument as a way to form an opinion about something, to question an opinion that you already have, or to reason your way through conflict or contradictions. In ancient Greece, this kind of argument was called **dialectic**.

An argument to inquire is non-confrontational. In fact, it can even be done alone. The chief characteristic of this type of argument is the patient asking of questions until the questioner locates the truth. Begin by identifying something that you are curious about or that you don't understand. You construct the argument by:

- Consulting sources which support your (initial) point of view, and identifying what within those sources is disputable.
- Ask questions.
- Examine alternatives.
- Reflect on what you observe.
- Examine the issue from multiple points of view.
- Ask more questions.



Refine your position through the process of asking questions, proposing answers, and forming and supporting arguments that either prove or disprove your point of view, adjusting your point of view accordingly as you learn more, until you feel you have reached a sound, logical, and defensible position on the question or issue.

**DIRECTIONS:** Select an issue, topic, or question which will be the subject of your argument to inquire. Write it below. Why did you choose this subject?

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