4.1 Analyzing Argumentation in Your Major

Objectives

Develop an awareness of how arguments are constructed in professional journals in students' majors or fields.

Analyze the process of argumentation as it relates to social justice issues.

Materials needed

Copies of sample article and the handout

Time needed

Ten to twenty minutes (more, depending on variation)

Instructor directions

Provide students with a sample article from a professional or technical journal in your field. Ask them to read it and come prepared to discuss in class.

Have them divide into small groups and analyze the article using the model provided (identifying information, author's purpose, target audience, thesis, support for thesis, argument against thesis, student analysis of effectiveness).

Variation

Have your students write an analysis of the article using the given model and turn it in to you for feedback.

Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

4.1 Analyzing Argumentation in Your Major Handout

Directions

Examine an article from a professional or technical journal in your field.

Discuss in small group and analyze the article using the following model. Answer the following questions:

What is the identifying information (author, title, date)?

What is the author's intention or purpose in writing the article (that is, what is the intended effect on the *audience*: to persuade, inform, suggest, etc.)?

Who is the target audience? How can you tell? Are you included in the target audience?

What is the thesis of the article or of the argument? What assumptions is the author making about the race, religion, class, age, etc., of the readers of the article?

What is the main argument in support of the thesis?

What is one argument against the thesis?

Did the author accomplish the stated purpose? Why or why not?

Variation
Write an analysis of the article using the above model. Turn it in to your instructor for feedback.