

Assignment Title:

Argument Reconstruction (20 points)

Objective:

To enhance students' critical thinking, argument analysis, and presentation skills by requiring them to reconstruct and analyze an argument from a chosen course reading.

Instructions:

1. **Choose a Reading:** Select one of the assigned readings from the course schedule that you find particularly interesting or compelling (you will sign up on the first day).
2. **Reconstruct the Argument:** Carefully analyze the chosen reading and identify the author's main argument. Reconstruct the argument in a clear and organized format, ensuring that you accurately represent the author's premises and conclusion.
3. **Analyze the Argument:** Evaluate the reconstructed argument for its validity, soundness, or cogency and strength. Identify any potential weaknesses, fallacies, or areas where the argument could be improved.
4. **Develop a Presentation:** Prepare a 10-15 minute presentation that includes:
 - A brief overview of the chosen reading and its context within the course.
 - A clear presentation of your argument reconstruction.
 - A critical analysis of the argument's strengths and weaknesses.
 - Your own perspective on the argument's persuasiveness and implications.
5. **Deliver the Presentation:** Deliver your presentation to the class in a clear, concise, and engaging manner. Be prepared to answer questions and engage in discussions with your peers and the instructor.

Grading Rubric:

- Accuracy of argument reconstruction (5 pts)
- Depth of critical analysis (5 pts)
- Clarity and organization of presentation (5 pts)
- Effective communication and engagement (5 pts)

Additional Notes:

- Encourage students to use visual aids (slides, diagrams, etc.) to enhance their presentations.
- Provide students with specific criteria for evaluating the validity, soundness, or cogency and strength of arguments.
- Offer opportunities for students to practice their presentations and receive feedback before the actual presentation date.