

The Graff Template

The argument template that Graff describes helps students use the elements of an argument—claim, support, examples—to guide their reading and writing processes. Although it may be somewhat prescriptive, it provides useful structure for students to follow until they internalize the process.

The general argument made by author X in his/her work _____
(title) _____ is that _____. She/he writes,
“_____.” In this passage, X is suggesting that
_____. In conclusion, X’s belief is that
_____.

In my view, X is wrong/right, because _____. More
specifically, I believe that _____. For example,
_____. Although X might object that
_____, I maintain that _____.
Therefore, I conclude that _____.¹

¹ Gerald Graff, *Clueless in Academe* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2003), 169-70.