

Week 3 Study and Activity Guide

September 19 – Asynchronous (read the materials) September 22 – Synchronous (class discussion via Zoom)

Recap

Our previous discussion provided the groundwork for understanding the nature of argumentation by looking at its various definitions, historical development, and ethical standards.

I. STUDY GUIDE

Objective: Understand the conventions, roles, and rules in argumentation

TOPIC: FUNDAMENTALS OF ARGUMENTATION

1. Let's Begin.

While it is important to understand the nature and ethical standards of argumentation, they are not enough to participate in the process of arguing. It is equally important to learn the conventions of argumentation as it is a rule-governed process. In this lesson, we will look at four fundamental concepts that are

necessary to the process of argumentation, and these are field, presumption, burden of proof, and prima facie case.

A field of argumentation, which is the context in which the argument takes place, has different elements that can either be field-dependent or field invariant. The conventions for argumentation based on the presumption, burden of proof, and prima facie case determine the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the argumentation process, whether as an advocate or an opponent of the motion. These four fundamental concepts will serve as a starting point in building credible arguments founded on solid evidence.

2. Read.

Read the following materials (available on the course site):

- a. Where Do I Begin in Argumentation? (Rybacki & Rybacki, 2012)
- b. The Anatomy of a Dispute (Ehninger & Brockriede, 1973)

3. Think.

- a. In which communication contexts might you use the view that presumption rests with existing institutions?
- b. In the ongoing controversy of right to life vs. abortion in the country, which side of the controversy has presumption? Which has the burden of proving that change should occur?

II. ACTIVITY GUIDE

CLASS PARTICIPATION FORUM 2. Proceed to the course site and participate in the discussion forum. Make sure to carefully follow the instructions provided on the course site.

References

- Ehninger, D., & Brockriede, W. (1973). The anatomy of a dispute. In H.V. Hansen, F.J. Kauffeld, J.B. Fremman, & L. Bermejo-Luque (Eds.), *Presumptions and burdens of proof: An anthology of argumentation and the law*. Alabama, USA: The University of Alabama Press.
- Rybacki, K.C., & Rybacki, D.J. (2012). *Advocacy and opposition: An introduction to argumentation* (7th ed.). USA: Allyn & Bacon.