

BUILDING EVIDENCE-BASED ARGUMENTS STRATEGIES FOR FINDING CLAIMS



QUESTION-FLOODING A TOPIC

Question-Flooding a Topic

1. Choose a topic.
2. Develop as many open-ended questions about that topic as you can. (Use the sentence stems on the next slide to help!)
3. Go back through the questions you've developed, and circle 2-4 that feel most interesting or compelling.
4. Answer these questions in one sentence. (Your answer to the question is your working claim!)



SENTENCE STEMS FOR QUESTION-FLOODING

How has _____ impacted _____?

How does _____ affect me?

What is the meaning behind _____?

How has _____ changed over time?

How is _____ related to _____?

How does _____ do _____?

Why does _____ work this way?

Why does _____ have this effect?

What is the relationship between _____ and _____?

How does _____ compare to _____?

What is the relationship between _____ and _____?

What is the significance of _____?

What would happen if _____ didn't exist / hadn't happened?

What assumptions does _____ rely on?

How does _____ compare to _____?

What problem does _____ solve, and does it actually solve it?

Who benefits from _____, and who doesn't?

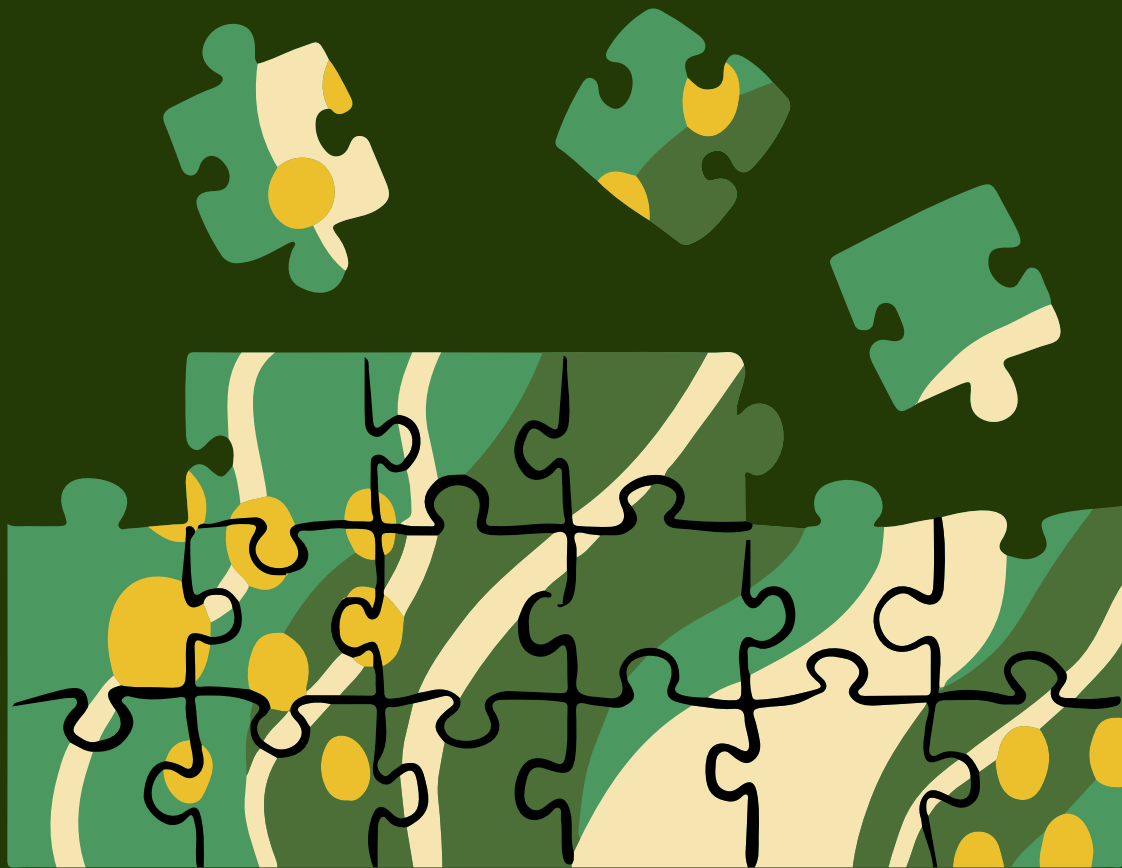
What is the cost of _____?

Under what conditions does _____ succeed or fail?

What does _____ reveal about _____ (a person, a group, a time period)?

PATTERN, PUZZLE, POSITION

Pattern, Puzzle, Position



Pattern

01

Look at your evidence. Then, group your evidence into categories of your own choosing. Ask: what do several pieces have in common? What groupings emerge?

Puzzle

02

Identify evidence that resists your groupings — evidence that complicates the pattern, contradicts another piece, or just doesn't fit cleanly anywhere.

Position

03

Complete this frame: "Most of the evidence suggests ___, but ___ complicates that, which means ___."

Pressure-Test

04

Trade your claim with a partner, who tries to find one more piece of evidence that would challenge it. If the claim survives, it's specific and arguable enough to build on. If it collapses, that's useful too — revise before you draft.

REACT & REASON

React & Reason



1

**Pick one moment from
the topic or text.**



3

**Ask “Why did this
bother me/ stick
with me/ jump out
at me?”**



2

React in one word.



4

**Turn it into a
sentence.**