**“Build The Stool:” Create an Argument**

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| **Skill #1: Make A Basic Argument**  **(CLAIM + EVIDENCE)**   * State your claim: A debatable statement. * State your evidence: Factual information that supports your claim. | **Skill #2: Make A Complete Argument**  **(CLAIM + EVIDENCE + REASONING)**   * State your claim and evidence. * Complete your argument with reasoning:  How does the evidence prove your claim? |

**“Improve The Stool:” Test & Strengthen Arguments**

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| **Skill #3: Evaluate Arguments**  **(VALID, RELEVANT, SUFFICIENT)**   * How valid is the evidence? * How relevant is the evidence to the claim? * Is the evidence sufficient to prove the claim? * How well does the reasoning link the evidence to the claim? | **Skill #4: Question Arguments**  **(ASSUMPTION)**   * How can I make the argument stronger? * What are the assumptions in the argument? * What additional information do I need to gather? |
| **Skill #5: Counter & Strengthen Arguments**  **(COUNTERCLAIM, COUNTERARGUMENT)**   * Anticipate attacks to your own argument. * Refine your own argument to make it stronger. * Use DRMO to respond to alternative arguments with counterarguments: * Deny: What my opponent said is not true. * Reverse: What my opponent said actually helps my argument. * Minimize: What my opponent said is true, but it is not a big deal. * Outweigh: What my opponent said is true, but this is more important. | |

**“Use The Stool:” Apply Argumentation**

**Skill #6: Use Argumentation In Context**

**(AUDIENCE)**

* Structure, frame, and package arguments to maximize desired impact for the given context and audience
* Apply argumentation to communicate voice, opinions, and needs in various academic and real life situations.