**“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?
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**“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?
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| **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.
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**“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.