
SEMINAR 4 - BUILDING A GOOD ARGUMENT

7 May 2020

Welcome to the fourth week of your Academic Skills course!

Every week on Monday, you will be given an exercise to complete before the Thursday online seminars. Please complete this exercise by Thursday 9 AM so we can include some of your responses in the class discussions. Please send your responses to my email address (alexandra@academiaone.co.uk).

The key learning outcome of Seminar 4 is to improve your essay argumentation and argument structuring skills.

Home exercise instructions

1. Choose an essay you previously submitted for university.
2. Print the **diagram on the next page of this document**, open it in an editable .pdf or use your favourite software to create a similar diagram.
3. Read your essay. Focus on the argument. Think about the following questions: *What is the key message you wanted to communicate and how did you support it with evidence? Can you easily follow the argument?*
4. Fill in the diagram boxes. *Can you fill in all the boxes? Do you need to add additional boxes? Does any of the content in the boxes overlap?* If so, draw extra arrows to visualise your argument!
5. Save your completed argument diagram or scan it if you used pen & paper.
6. Send the document containing your filled in diagram to my email (alexandra@academiaone.co.uk).

Seminar 4 will start with the home exercise discussion. I'll give feedback on a couple of examples from you and have a wider discussion about how you found the exercise. Then, we'll explore the theory behind building excellent arguments and some strategies that will help you improve your arguments and the structure of your arguments in essays and dissertations. The last part of the seminar will involve two interactive demonstrations. First, we will build an argument structure together using MINDMUP. Second, I will live mark a new student essay, focussing on how markers assess arguments according to the marking criteria.

See you on Zoom on Thursday 2pm!

Alexandra, AcademiaOne Course Director

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Argument outline

Essay question:

