The Rhetoric of Argumentation
ENG 432
Fall 2019
Prof. William Keith
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Monday-Wednesday 2:00-3:15

We use reasons and argument for lots of things. We work our way through problems, test theories about things, critically assess the news, try to persuade others - and much more. But what is argument after all? Is it a psychological process? A rhetorical skill? A logical framework? A cultural practice?

In this course we’ll be examining the theories and practices of argument, considering it as a type of rhetoric and basic human activity. We’ll look at its relationship to logic, the role of audience in argumentation, different practices of argument, as well as the role and consequences of argument in the public sphere. We will also examine argument through the lenses of gender and culture.

Course requirements will include readings, class discussion, classroom exercises in argument, and research paper investigating a type or example of public argument.

Please contact the instructor with your questions: