

## **Information Literacy Tip – Identifying Arguments**

Once you have limited your topic, do some preliminary research to identify the arguments about your topic. If there's no argument, your topic is probably too unarguably factual to be appropriate for a college-level paper. Fortunately, humans argue about almost everything! But your college-level paper will need to take a position and present all the competing positions.

Here are some likely arguments about any issue:

- This problem is caused by human nature
- This problem is caused by human systems
- This problem has an inevitable natural cause
- This problem will get worse
- This problem will get better
- The government should solve this problem
- The individual should solve this problem
- Groups of individuals should solve this problem

What other kinds of arguments can you think of?

Furthermore, reading to identify the arguments is a great way to understand what you are reading, identify further issues for research, and get ready to write.