

Argument Analysis Worksheet

Systematic Protocol for 30-Minute Essays

5-Step Argument Analysis Protocol

Timing guidance: Aim for 5-7 minutes total before writing. Keep notes short (phrases, not sentences).

Step 1 - Conclusion Identification (30 seconds)

Main conclusion the argument wants me to accept:

Step 2 - Reasoning Chain (90 seconds)

Evidence presented:

Logical steps connecting evidence to conclusion:

Step 3 - Assumption Identification (2-3 minutes)

Prompt: What must be true for the reasoning to work?

Assumption #1:

Assumption #2:

Assumption #3:

Step 4 - Alternative Explanations (1-2 minutes)

Write one alternative for each assumption (what else could explain the evidence?):

Alternative for Assumption #1:

Alternative for Assumption #2:

Alternative for Assumption #3:

Step 5 - Evidence Specification (1 minute)

Evidence to test Assumption #1:

Evidence to test Assumption #2:

Quick reminder (essay structure): State assumption → Explain why problematic → Specify evidence