

Developing an Argument

How to Publish an Academic Article Workshops

The Society for History Education – The History Teacher

You Need an Argument

- 1) Developing an argument.
- 2) How to test if you have an argument.
- 3) How to develop a thesis.
- 4) How to write an argument-driven article.
- 5) To-do list

1) Developing an Argument

- The main reason articles are rejected is because there isn't a clear argument
- What is an argument?
 - It should persuade the reader to believe something which is then supported with evidence.

2) How to test if you have an argument

- Can you respond with "I agree" or "I disagree"?
- A good argument takes a position and provides evidence to support it.
 - Examples:
 - This pedagogical strategy is the best way to teach this topic.
 - Textbooks portray this issue in this way, but this is a more accurate way to present it.

3) How to develop a thesis

- Questions to ask as you develop your thesis:
 - What procedural/strategic/substantive concept were you trying to teach?
 - How did you go about teaching this concept?
 - How did you assess this concept, directly or indirectly?
 - What were the results?
 - How will you (and our readers) use the results of this approach to inform our teaching in the future?

4) How to write an argument-driven article

- Once you have the argument, you must connect it to the evidence you have.
- Think like a lawyer. Present evidence that supports your case.

5) To-do list

- 1) Write down your argument as you see it now
- 2) Write a short list of your evidence to support your argument
- 3) Share it with other people