


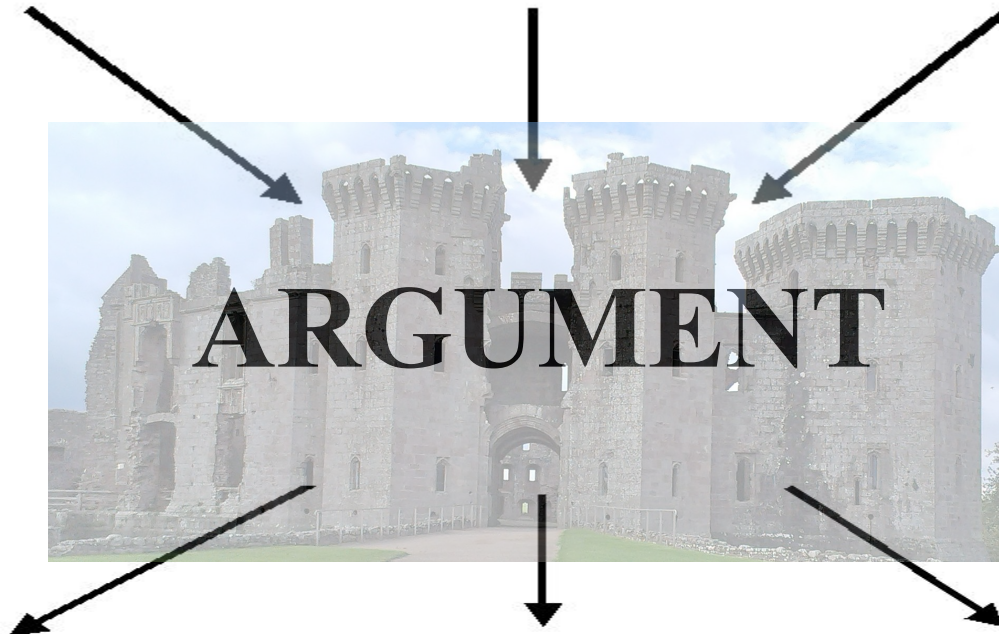
# Effective Commentary:

The Mortar of your Stone  
Castle of an Argument

A photograph of a stone castle wall, likely made of granite or similar natural stone. The wall features a white-framed window with a white sill and a wooden door with a white frame. The text is overlaid on the image, with the main title at the top and the subtitle in the center. The background shows a cloudy sky and a stadium light tower in the distance.

# THINKING

**VALUES** + **EVIDENCE** + **REASONING**  
(Foundation) (Stones) (Mortar)



**THESIS** + **EVIDENCE** + **COMMENTARY**  
(Foundation) (Stones) (Mortar)

# EXPRESSING

# COMMENTARY

Author's interpretation, explanation &  
analysis

1. Expressing analysis from **THINKING** level

a. Identifying & analyzing VALUES

b. Interpreting EVIDENCE

c. PROPPing Evidence

d. Applying characteristics of Good  
REASONING (C, C→E, or G)

2. Connecting to Topic Sentences & THESIS

# Analyzing Values

- Explicitly tells audience:
  - Value priorities of author relevant to given argument
  - Explains meaning of those values in context
- Explicitly expresses to the audience how value priority supports topic sentence and thesis

# Interpreting Evidence

- Explicitly tells audience:
  - a. Why evidence is reliable & authoritative
  - b. What the evidence means
  - c. How evidence supports topic sentence & thesis

# Interpreting Reasoning (C)

- Explicitly expresses to the audience the reasoning of the thinking level:
- Attends to characteristics of Good Reasoning
  - **Comparison:**
    - Identifies Important Insightful Issues
    - Provides Detailed Descriptors
- Explicitly expresses to the audience how reasoning supports topic sentence and thesis

# Interpreting Reasoning (C→E)

- Explicitly expresses to the audience the reasoning of the thinking level:
- Attends to characteristics of Good Reasoning
  - **Cause→Effect**
    - Clarifies Connections
    - Identifies Multiple Causes or Effects
- Explicitly expresses to the audience how reasoning supports topic sentence and thesis

# Interpreting Reasoning (G)

- Explicitly expresses to the audience the reasoning of the thinking level:
- Attends to characteristics of Good Reasoning
  - **Generalization:**
    - Identifies method of parting and why that method is important
    - Explains size & representativeness of sample
- Explicitly expresses to the audience how reasoning supports topic sentence and thesis