**Part C: Preparing to Join the Conversation**

Objectives for today:

* Answer your research question.
* Identify an audience for your answer and analyze their beliefs.
* Compose a thesis statement that presents your claim while acknowledging your audience’s concerns.

**Step 1: Revisit your focus question.**

After learning about your chosen issue by reading at least 4 different sources, you should have increased insight on your focus question. Your answer to your question will becomes the main claim that you will present in your paper.

**My Answer** *(aka my position or claim)*:

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**Step 2: Identify an audience.**

Think about who needs to hear your answer or better understand your position. Describe the people you think should be exposed to the message in your paper.

Describe your Audience: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. My audience initially believes that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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1. My audience cares about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Step 3: Target your audience.**

Explain how your audience will react to your position.

1. Name two concerns your audience could have with your position:
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   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. My audience will eventually be persuaded to see the value of my position because

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**Step 4: Compose a thesis statement.**

You will build a thesis for this paper by combining a clear statement of your own claim with an acknowledgement or concession of possible audience concerns.

Examples:

* Although some people think that \_\_\_[concern]\_\_\_, in reality \_\_\_[claim]\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_[Claim]\_\_\_\_ is clearly the right choice despite understandable concerns about \_\_[concern]\_\_.
* It is true that \_\_\_\_\_[concern]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ; however, \_\_\_\_\_[claim]\_\_\_\_.

**Thesis** *(your main claim + an acknowledgement of audience concerns):*

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**Step 5: Develop your position.**

You will develop this research paper by providing support for your claim. In the space below, identify three reasons why your claim is valid. Remember, in order to create an argument that will appeal to reasonable people, your reasons should be logically sound.

**Supporting Reasons**:

1.

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**Step 6: Find research notes to continue development.**

Now you have the “bones” of your argument, and you can start “fleshing it out.”

**Supporting Evidence:**

What quote or quotes from your research will help you support your position?

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**Other Positions:**

What quote or quotes from your research represent other positions, concerns, or ideas that you need to address?

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