

Everyday and Academic Argumentation

<i>Informal, spoken, everyday argument</i>	<i>Formal, written academic argument</i>
Some linked points	Characterised by numerous points carefully related to one another
Prejudiced, based on opinion	Balanced, based on viewpoint supportable with reference to evidence
Focuses on strengths of own position; ignores weaknesses	Considers both strengths and weaknesses of own position
Ungraded	Graded
Spontaneous	Planned
Appeals to the emotions	Appeals to reason
Interested (i.e. 'having an axe to grind')	Disinterested (i.e. impartial)
Person(s) you are trying to convince is/are of approximately the same status as you (if they are a friend)	Asymmetrical novice-expert (student-lecturer) relationship
Other(s) hear argument there and then	Other(s) read argument at a time of their choosing
One-sided	Considers differing viewpoints
No permanent material record of spoken response	Written feedback provides permanent response
Certain conclusions, generalisations	Conclusions often highly qualified, even uncertain
Point scoring	Attempts to establish truth
Fragmentary, disorganised	Unified, highly patterned and organised
Concerned with what is said rather than how it is said	Concerned with both what is said <i>and</i> how it is said
Some supporting evidence; little attention to the status of evidence	Points supported by evidence; rigorous attention to status of evidence