

Making an Argument

Political Science

Structuring a political science argument.

The structure.

1

State the puzzle

What is surprising or unexplained.

2

State your claim

The answer, in one sentence, early.

3

Set out the alternatives

The competing explanations, fairly stated.

4

Present the evidence

Showing why yours fits better.

5

Address the strongest objection

Not the weakest one available.

6

State the scope

Where the argument applies and where it does not.

Educational reference. An argument that never states what would disconfirm it is difficult to evaluate or to build on.