

# Scholarly Argumentation

Telling a Compelling and Authoritative  
Story

# Argument Traditions

- *Aristotelian or adversarial*
  - *Reversals and discovery*
- *Rogerian or consensus-building*
  - *Summative and distilling*
- *Ethnographic Narratives*
  - *Descriptive, reflective, reflexive*
- *Personal Narrative*
  - *Lessons learned*

# Aristotelian Arguments

- Initial “simplified problem” (in the world)
- Complicated first by the contributions to knowledge about it, from Others (positive), then further complicated by issues YOU (as author) explicate, from the work of those Others.
  - Leads to a “new and improved” problem statement
    - Reversal #1
- Number of reversals? Three is good.
- Leads to a sharply defined theoretical problem

# Rogerian or Consensus Building

- Initial Problem Statement (about the world/practice)
- Application of Lens #1 (theory)
  - How this lens helps us understand this problem/issue
- Application of Lens #2
  - What this adds to our understanding
- Summarize what things we have learned as we from these different lenses

# Ethnographic Storyline

- Focus on understanding for the sake of understanding
  - Thin or no problem statement
  - Call for understanding/exploration w/o problem, often from an anecdote or experience
- Reflective writing/ reflexive process
  - Narrate the process of discovery itself

# Personal Narrative Schema

- Frey's Pyramid
  - Antecedent condition (containing an issue/problem)
  - Complications (with reversals)
  - Crisis (irony)
  - Resolution or lack thereof
- Reflections/connections