

INTRODUCTION

- **Statement of issue & focus**
- **Thesis statement**

A. ARGUMENT FOR YOUR THESIS

For your supporting argument, set out:

- **The relevant background facts to the argument**
- **The premises of the argument, and**
- **Any sub-arguments**

B. COUNTER-ARGUMENT

Do the same as in A, but for a counter-argument that has negative relevance to your argument for your thesis

C. REPLY

Do the same as in A, but for your reply to B

CONCLUSION

- **State what you have established**

A + B + C = a well-developed argument

NOTE

Executing A + B + C takes up space in your paper

In a limited page limit, the more supporting arguments you raise, the less room you will have to execute A + B + C

And the WEAKER your analysis will become

Until it becomes simply a series of controversial and unsupported assertions (i.e. an opinion, not an argument)

This is why, in a short paper, it is advisable to **narrow the focus of your analysis to what you can adequately analyze in the space available**

For example: Suppose you have chosen to critically evaluate Taylor's biocentrism, taking a position critical of the theory

There are a number of sources that you could rely upon to help support a critique

- **Sober's argument on the environmentalist's use of the term natural**
- **Sober's critique of the environmentalist's appeals to needs & interests**
- **Hursthouse's criticism of Taylor's hybrid approach**

You are not going to be able to execute A + B + C well (i.e. A or A+ paper) raising all three of these lines of argument

Narrow your focus to one and then build your analysis out to ensure you are executing A + B + C