

# **THE FUNDAMENTALS OF ARGUMENTATION AND DEBATE**

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The Fundamentals of Argumentation and Debate by J. Walter Reeves

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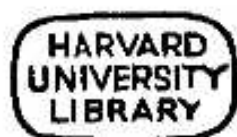


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## PREFACE

THE author of this text does not claim to have advanced any new scheme for handling the material on Argumentation and Debate, nor does he claim to have covered the subject more comprehensively than other authors. He has had in mind, rather, the object of simplifying the subject matter in order that it might be more quickly grasped. A detailed knowledge of the principles of Argumentation is greatly to be desired, but it is not within the possibilities of students in secondary schools. The primary purpose of this text is to meet the needs of students in such schools.

There have been many excellent books written on Argumentation, most of them for college, but some for secondary work. Those who have written for the latter have failed to keep in mind the little time that can be devoted to this subject. Few schools can devote more than sixteen lessons to this study. Where the textbook goes into detail the younger student becomes confused in the short time he has for the subject. Therefore the author has aimed to give the fundamentals with sufficient illustrations to make the matter clear, believing that the student will be the more interested to take up the study in a more detailed way when he enters college. After four years of experimentation with other texts, the author submitted in note form the subject matter which follows and was satisfied that the students obtained a clearer knowledge of the fundamentals than the students of the previous years.

The author acknowledges his indebtedness to many books on the subject, and particularly to Pattee's *Practical Argumenta-*

tion, Stone and Garrison's *Essentials of Argumentation*, William Trufant Foster's *Essentials of Exposition and Argument*, and Gardiner's *The Making of Arguments*. He is also much indebted to his teachers, Professor Delbert G. Lean of Wooster College and Judge Arthur P. Stone of Harvard, under whose tutelage he received much practical knowledge of the subject and even better, a love for the study. The author is under deep obligation to Charles S. Mitchell of the English Department of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, who offered many valuable suggestions and helpful criticisms.

J. W. R.



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# Argumentation and Debate

## CHAPTER I

### ARGUMENTATION

*Argumentation is the endeavor to make others accept our own conclusions.*

*Argumentation* is one of the most powerful agents of man. It has enabled him all down through the ages to bring about decisive steps in the process of civilization. Aristotle, Martin Luther, Bismarck, Darwin, and Lincoln are but a few of the great host who have gained their great renown and contributed to the world's development through their ability to marshal their thoughts and to present them in a logical and convincing manner.

By the force of argument, man is generally able to overthrow error and to present truth. The lawyer seeks to bring about a decision by argument; the preacher attempts to convince and persuade by the use of argument; the statesman brings about his great constructive laws by a process of logical reasoning; the teacher supplements the textbooks by weighing the facts and contrasting their relative values. There is hardly a newspaper or magazine article that does not seek to convince you, by contrasting the arguments for and against a controversy, that its point