Writing Science

29 October 2018

**Paper 3: Argumentation**

Åsmund H. Eikenes

Agenda:

**1. Warm-up exercise**

**2. Argumentative writing is a conversation**

The model is useful to structure arguments in academic texts. Scheme:

**TOPIC.** One sentence. This is your claim.

*“The paper by Donna Strickland and Gerard Mourou is groundbreaking because they transferred knowledge from radar physics into the field of optics.”*

**THEY SAY.** 2-5 sentences describing what others have said about this topic. Do they agree or argue against it, and what are their explicit reasons for doing so? Use examples, quotes and references.

*“By the mid-1980s it was impossible to produce laser pulses with increased intensity. Stricland and Mourou (1985) showed that it was possible to use the technique developed for radar technology and apply it to the optics field. The resulting CPA-technique generates the high-intensity pulses used in all current laser beams worldwide.”*

**I SAY.** Here is where you comment and participate in the conversation about the topic. Highlight what is relevant to your argument.

*“To me, the groundbreaking idea behind Stricland and Mourous paper (1985) is that they borrowed the main idea from a neighboring field. They found inspiration outside their own filed of expertise, and the result was new ideas and a novel solution to a big problem. This is the most groundbreaking part of their discovery.”*

**Assignment**: Write a 200 word (bad first draft) text where you argue for or against something related to the paper.

**Ideas**: How is the paper relevant to your field, why is it hard to read, for whom is it still important, how does it inspire you?

**3. Send me your drafts**: a.h.eikenes@mn.uio.no

**4. Reflection on the writing process.** “Today, I learned…”

**Next week:**

BRING 3 PRINTED COPIES OF YOUR TEXT.