



# Point of View and Argument

# Point of View and Argument Lenses

|                        | In Narratives  | In Informational Texts   |
|------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Types of Lenses</b> | <p><b>Lens 1: What is the author's and/or character's point of view here?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What they are thinking</li><li>• What they believe</li><li>• What they feel or want</li></ul> <p><b>Lens 2: What makes the author and/or character's point of view persuasive?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Text evidence</li><li>• Word choice</li><li>• Structure</li><li>• Say/Think/Do</li><li>• Character expressions, gestures, and appearance</li><li>• Relationships</li><li>• Setting descriptions</li><li>• Time period</li><li>• Recurring objects</li></ul> | <p><b>Lens 1: What is the point of view/argument?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ideas or claims</li><li>• Reasons the claim is right</li><li>• Evidence supporting the reasons</li><li>• Counterargument</li></ul> <p><b>Lens 2: What makes the point of view/argument persuasive?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Text evidence</li><li>• Word choice</li><li>• Structure</li><li>• Emotional appeals (personal stories or anecdotes)</li><li>• Engaging voice (humor, passion or outrage)</li><li>• Sense of audience (angled evidence or tone)</li><li>• Nods to commonly held beliefs or even stereotypes</li><li>• Rhetorical devices (metaphors, alliteration, or irony)</li></ul> |

# Point of View and Argument Patterns and Understandings

|                                | In Narratives  | In Informational Texts  |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Types of patterns</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Which points of view/ideas are repeated?</li><li>• Which technique does the author use to make his or her point of view/argument?</li><li>• What sticks out as different or unusual in the text?</li></ul>   |   |
| <b>Types of Understandings</b> | <p><b>What is the purpose of effect of these points of view?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is revealed about a theme?</li><li>• The author's purpose?</li><li>• The effect on the reader?</li><li>• Which point of view is rewarded in the text?</li><li>• Comparison of points of view</li></ul> | <p><b>Validity and strengths of the argument:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Central idea or claim</li><li>• Most/least persuasive parts</li><li>• How similar or different from the reader's point of view</li><li>• How well-supported</li><li>• Effective or ineffective parts</li><li>• The strength of counterargument</li></ul> <p><b>Author's style:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Most commonly used craft or persuasion techniques</li><li>• Balance of style and argument</li><li>• Effective or ineffective persuasive techniques</li></ul> |

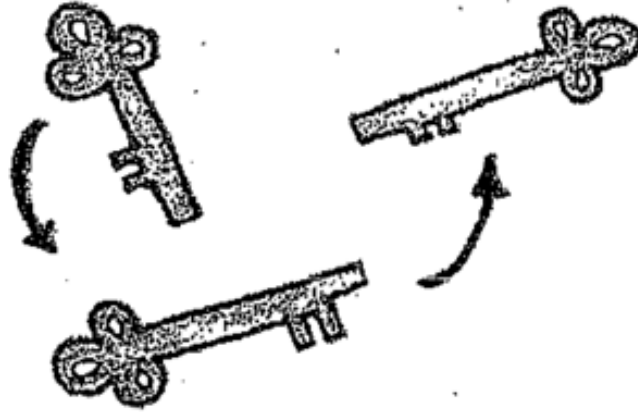
# Arguments

1. Lens 1 – ideas, claims, arguments and evidence
2. Lens 2 – techniques the author use

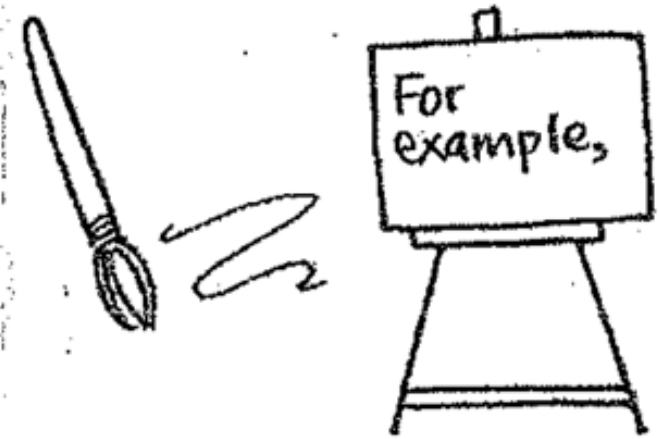
Including personal stories and anecdotes



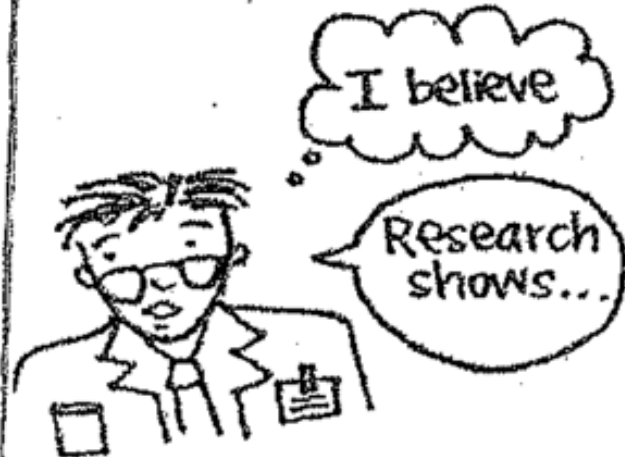
Repeating key terms or phrases



Giving examples to illustrate their point



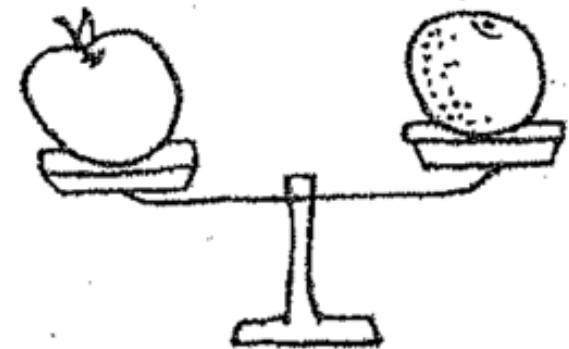
Bringing in expert opinions and quotes



Addressing readers/listeners directly and asking them to reflect on their own experiences



Making comparisons or connections



Let me show you how! Lets read the background  
of the issue first.





## The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb: Background



[Los Alamos test bomb \(3 views\)](#)



[Oppenheimer and Groves](#)

In 1939 President Roosevelt and congress authorized a secret project to expand research on nuclear fission and use uranium and plutonium to generate nuclear chain reactions as atomic weapons. This project, known as the Manhattan Project, was under the military authority was General Leslie Groves, and was headed by chief civilian scientist Robert Oppenheimer. Work continued at a variety of locations around the United States throughout the war, and by July 1945 had resulted in three bombs. By this time President Roosevelt had died (April 12), and Germany had surrendered (May 8), but the war in the Pacific continued. On July 16 scientists at Los Alamos, New Mexico, successfully field-tested the first bomb.

The news of the test was cabled to President Truman, who was attending an important meeting in Potsdam, Germany, where he met with Britain's Winston Churchill and Russia's Joseph Stalin for the first time. With this new weapon in hand, Truman issued one final warning to Japan, referred to as the Potsdam Declaration. Japan ignored the warning. On August 6 the city of Hiroshima was destroyed with an atomic bomb. Three days later, August 9, Nagasaki was hit. On the 10th, Japan requested a halting of the war, and they surrendered shortly thereafter.



[Truman at Potsdam](#)

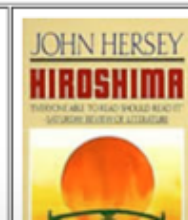


[Atomic bomb explosion, Nagasaki](#)

The United States remains the only nation to have ever used nuclear weapons, and has never again resorted to them, despite subsequent wars. Atomic bombs are classified as Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), a special category of weaponry considered by much of the civilized world to be especially cruel and inhumane, because of the sheer number of deaths they can cause, because they kill soldiers and civilians indiscriminately, and because of the horrific way in which their victims die. Since it was a secret project, the American population didn't know about the bomb until it was used. Subsequently, information about Hiroshima and Nagasaki was repressed by the American government. Americans remained ignorant about the bomb and why it was used. Debate only began a year after the war ended, when the entire issue of the New Yorker magazine was devoted to a graphic and personal account of the bombing through the eyes of six Japanese survivors. The article, written by John Hersey and titled "Hiroshima," was reprinted in book form and became a best-seller. Hiroshima prompted the public to start asking questions about how the decision was

made. It was the beginning of a public debate about whether or not President Truman made the right decision to use the atomic bomb, a debate which remains ongoing.

Go to [The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb](#) to learn more about that debate.





## Arguments Against The Bomb

by Michael Barnes

*Note: This section is intended as an objective overview of the decision to use the atomic bomb for new students of the issue. For the other side of the issue, [go here](#).*

### Argument 1: The Bomb Was Made For Defense Only

The origins of the Manhattan Project go back to 1939, when Hungarian-born physicist Leo Szilard, who had moved to the U.S. in 1938 to conduct research at Columbia University, became convinced of the feasibility of using nuclear chain reactions to create new, powerful bombs. German scientists had just conducted a successful nuclear fission experiment, and based on those results, Szilard was able to demonstrate that uranium was capable of producing a nuclear chain reaction. Szilard noted that Germany



Albert Einstein and Leo Szilard

had stopped the exportation of uranium from Czechoslovakian mines which they had taken over in 1938. He feared that Germany was trying to build an atomic bomb, while the United States was sitting idle. Although WWII had not yet started, Germany was clearly a threat, and if the Germans had a monopoly on the atomic bomb, it could be deployed against anyone, including the United States, without warning. Szilard worked with Albert Einstein, whose celebrity gave him access to the president, to produce a letter informing Roosevelt of the situation. Their warning eventually resulted in the Manhattan Project. Bomb opponents argue that the atomic bomb was built as a defensive weapon, not an offensive one. It was intended to be a deterrent, to make Germany or any other enemy think twice before using such a weapon against the United States. To bolster their argument, these

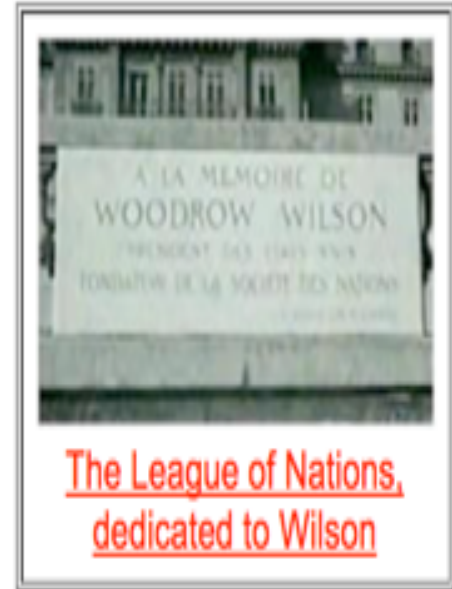
critics point out that ever since WWII, the weapon has been used *only* as a deterrent. From 1949-1991 the Cold War was waged under the shadow of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD), and even though the United States fought major wars in Korea (while Truman was still in office), Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan, nuclear weapons were never again deployed. In other words, not using them in those wars has been an admission that they should never have been used offensively in the first place.



## Argument 2: Use of the Bomb was Illegal

On September 30, 1938, the League of Nations, "under the recognized principles of international law," issued a unanimous resolution outlawing the intentional bombing of civilian populations, with special emphasis against bombing military objectives from the air. The League warned, *"Any attack on legitimate military objectives must be carried out in such a way that civilian populations in the neighborhood are not bombed through negligence."* Significantly, the resolution also reaffirmed that *"the use of chemical or bacterial methods in the conduct of war is contrary to international law."* In other words, a special category of illegal weapons had been recognized, a category today called Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD).

However, bomb supporters point out that since the United States was not a member of the League of Nations; its laws did not apply. And anyway, the League had been disbanded in 1939, long before the atomic bomb was used. Additionally, the law did not specifically outlaw nuclear weapons. To that counter-argument, bomb opponents reply that since America presents itself to the world as a model for human rights, the U.S. should aspire to at least meet the basic code of conduct agreed to by the rest of the civilized world. They also point out that nuclear weapons were not specifically outlawed because they did not exist, but as a weapon of mass destruction, they most certainly would have been.



Lets do it together! You continue reading the rest of the passage.

