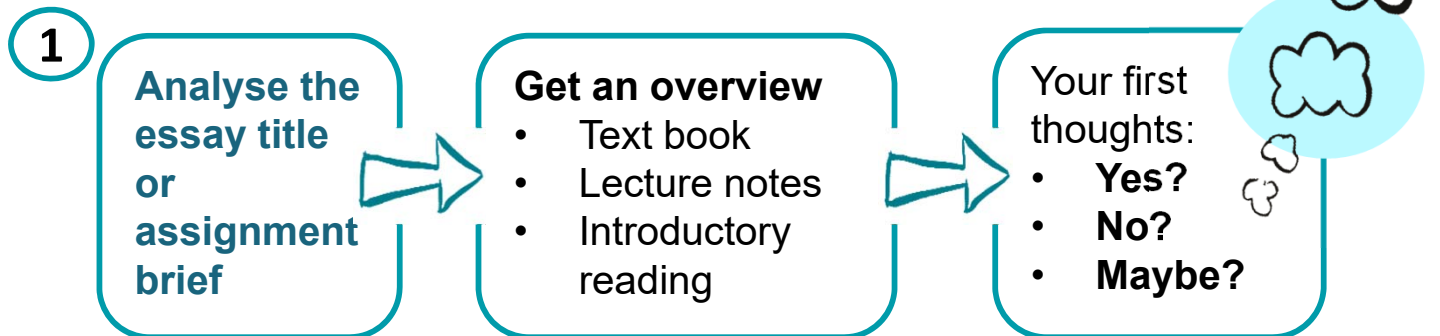


Thinking, reading, thinking, writing - repeat...

You can develop the steps of your argument in your writing as you go, identifying the points you want to make and the evidence you will use.

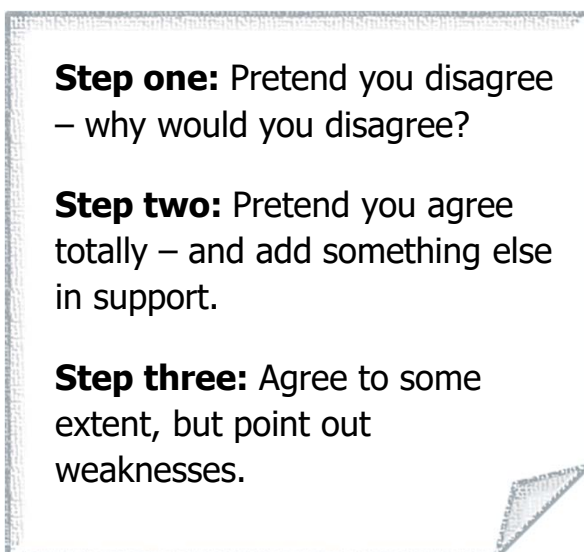


2 Create a working hypothesis

Write an initial response offering a few conclusions as a basic answer to the essay title or assignment brief. Stick to two or three sentences.

You will change and develop it as you read and investigate the topic.


3 Test your hypothesis with questions



Step one: Pretend you disagree – why would you disagree?

Step two: Pretend you agree totally – and add something else in support.

Step three: Agree to some extent, but point out weaknesses.

- 
- What evidence can I find in support of / against this?
 - What theoretical perspectives does it fit / not fit with?
 - What do the main authors or thinkers have to say?
 - Make comparisons – look for differences and similarities.

Make these questions more and more specific as you read more.

4 Modify and develop your answer as you read

How far – if at all – does each text confirm your answer?

Which parts? In what way? Can you use it in your essay? How? Where?

How far – if at all – does it contradict your answer?

Do you need to modify your answer? Why? In what way?

Will you keep your response and conclusions the same?

Does it suggest new questions/ issues you need to address?

How will you build these into your argument?

