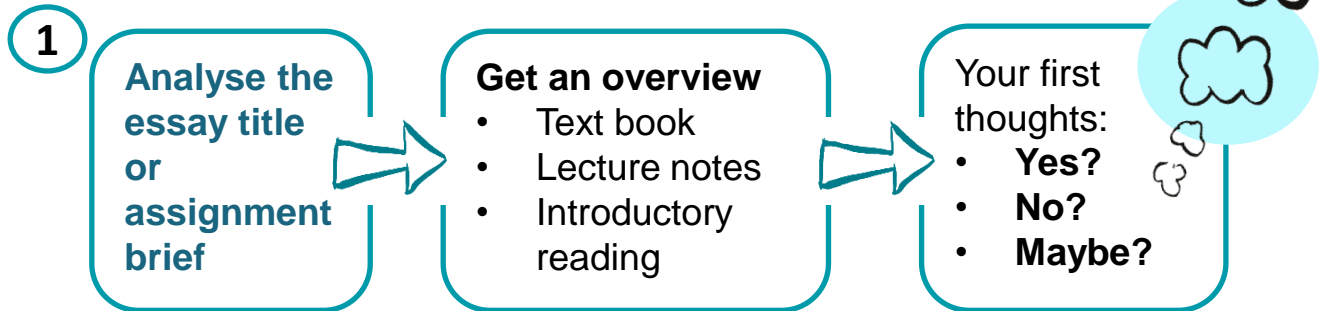


# Building an argument as you go

## 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?