



Enhancing  
Postgraduate  
Environments

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## **Planning my argument: two connected tools**

**Use these two tools to work out, for yourself, what your argument is.**

### **A few of helpful tips:**

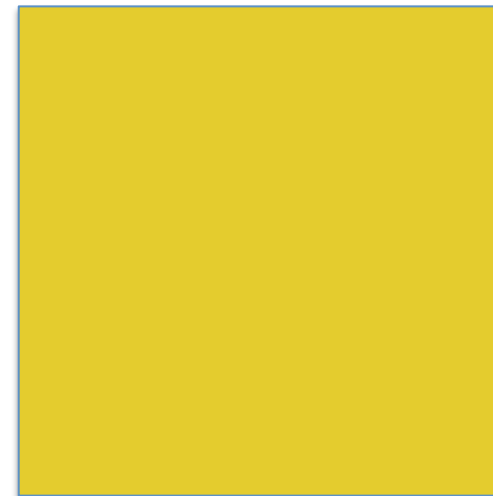
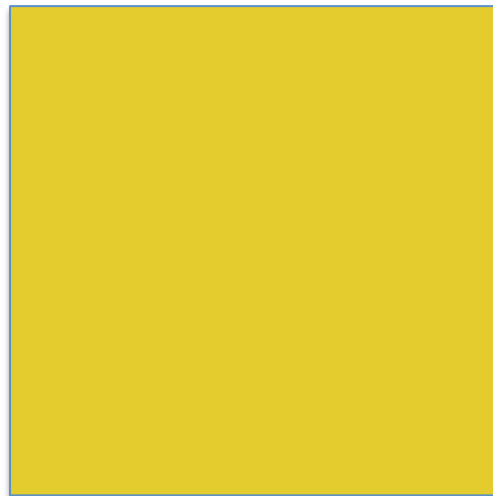
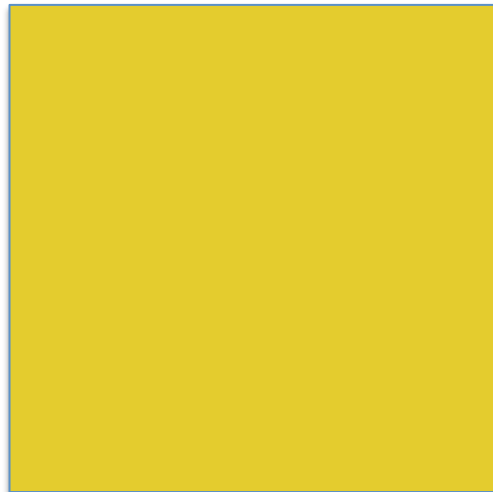
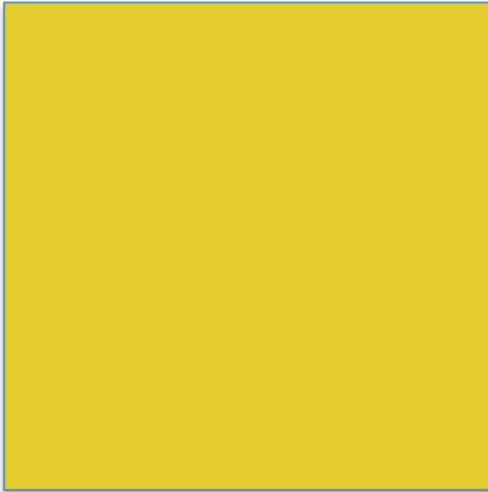
1. Keep these notes in your research journal, or paste this worksheet in, so you can refer back to it later on as your argument becomes more refined, or sharper.
2. Working with Tool 1: I usually start with part one of my claim in the top block, and then move to part 2. Usually part 1 indicates the gap you are locating your research in, and part 2 expresses your contribution to closing or bridging this gap in your field. Then you can look at the reasons and evidence.
3. Use the tools together, as Tool 2 also asks you to consider counter-arguments, which is vital for presenting a thoughtful, well-rounded account of your field, and shows your readers that you have read widely and well, and how your research accounts for the research that comes at your problem from different or contradictory perspectives, evidence or angles. You may need to redraw Tool 2 on a separate sheet of paper or into your research journal.
4. Keep coming back to these tools as your writing and research process progresses, so that you can actively and consciously articulate your argument, and note any places where there are gaps, or you struggle to express yourself succinctly or clearly. Use these notes in supervision and support meetings, to get helpful feedback so you can keep moving forward.

**Tool 1: post-it planner**

**Claim/argument**

**Reason/s for claim**

**Evidence**



**Tool 2: flow-chart planner**

