

# Developing a Rogerian Argument

## AP Language and Composition

**Your Assignment:** Choose a real argumentative context and write a Rogerian argument. Ideas:

- Seek to find compromise with a family member or a friend on a contentious issue
- Write a response to one of the quarter project columns with which you disagree
- Write to a teacher with whom you've had a disagreement
- Write to a political figure with whom you disagree on a particular issue
- Write a more detailed response to a social media dispute you've had with someone whose friendship / relationship you value

In your argument, you should provide each of the following:

1. an introduction to the problem and a demonstration that the opponent's position is understood.
2. a fair statement of the contexts in which the opponent's position may be valid.
3. a fair statement of the writer's position, including the context in which it is valid.
4. a statement of how the opponent's position would benefit if he/she were to adopt elements of the writer's position. If the writer can show that the positions complement each other, that each supplies what the other lacks, so much the better.

You may choose to take position / tone similar to either King in "Letter from Birmingham Jail" (conciliatory), though, as you may recall, King didn't rely completely on a Rogerian format (though his use of allusions and other elements of his writing certainly fit it).

Remember the elements of a Rogerian argument:

- Negotiation
- Compromise
- Cooperation
- Mutual Interest
- Common Beliefs, Ideas, or Arguments

**Remember: If you use sources as research to support your argument, please provide attributions, citations, and a Works Cited page.**

Complete the SOAPStone page before you begin to write; print this and have it with your printed first draft for next class.

SOAPSTone: Use this as a means of planning your writing; print this sheet and submit with your first draft.

Subject	What are you talking about? What “story” do you hope to tell?	
Occasion	How does your knowledge of the larger occasion and the immediate occasion affect what you are writing about?)	
Audience	What are the characteristics of this group? How are they related to you? Why are you addressing them?	
Purpose	Explain to yourself what you hope to accomplish by this expression of opinion. How would you like your audience to respond?	
Speaker	Who are you? What details will you reveal? Why is it important that the audience know who you are?	
Tone	What attitude[s] do you want your audience to feel? How will your attitude[s] enhance the effectiveness of your piece? Choose a few words or phrases that will reflect a particular attitude	