English 123 • Dr. Terry Lee • Building the Core of An Argument (Turabian 65 ff.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Overview:**

The core of your argument is shaped by answers to the following questions:

• What do you want me to believe?

• Why should I believe it?

•How do you know that is true?

• What about my ideas / beliefs?

**In Detail:**

To begin building the core of your argument, respond to the following in the order they appear. Give complete responses, taking time to do the research necessary to do so. Keep a Working Works Cited at the bottom of the page, tracking research that you think might be valuable.

1. My research question (at this time) is:

2. My working hypothesis (at this time) is:

3. My target audience and/or target publication as follows. (Explain *why*.)

4. Convert your hypothesis to a claim and evaluate your claim. Your claim may well change, even as you complete building out the core of your argument. It is a dynamic process. To evaluate your claim as *So what?* The response you want from your audience is *Wow! Really?*

5. What evidence—*reasons*—do you have. Use this space to summarize your research in brief statements. Take time to do some research now to find more.

6. What are your underlying *principles*? What *ideas* motivate your convictions? Write a paragraph or two explaining fully.

7. Acknowledge your audience’s concerns so that you may respond to them. Cite any obstacles that you face in convincing your audience; cite any objections or concerns your audience may have. Be as complete as you can, doing research now, as necessary.

8. Now, do new research on your audience’s beliefs and concerns. Become an expert on what and how they think.