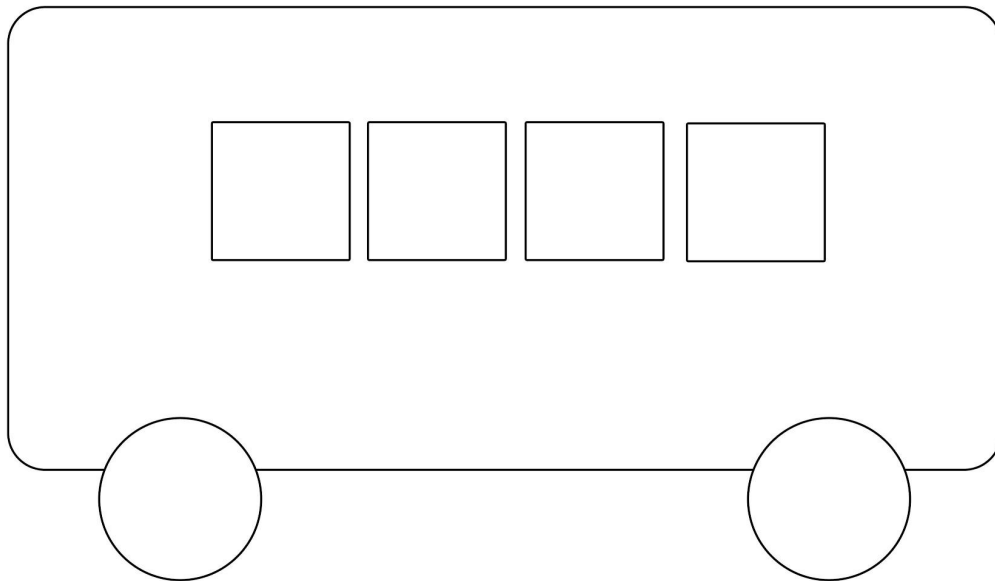


# **Teach Writing Thinkingly**

**Classroom Ideas that forge forceful arguments**

By Rob Whyte

Which way is the bus going?



# Aim of Session

1. Learn an inquiry method framework
2. Practice creating thoughtful arguments
3. Get inspired with activities that teach fluency, proficiency and style

# What is an inquiry method?

create knowledge, don't  
memorize facts

*one right answer* doesn't exist

opposite of "telling is teaching"



# Inquiry method for ESL writing?

- Build intelligent arguments with logos, not pathos or ethos
- Develop a thinking skill for school and work
- Needs scaffolding

It is not ....

- a template
- easy to teach
- easy to learn

# Why bother?

- External rewards? None.
- Professional pride? Yup.
- Socio-economic relevance? Sure.



# Inquiry Based Learning Framework

1. Formulate a question
2. Collect evidence or create arguments
3. Establish warrants
4. Draw probable conclusions

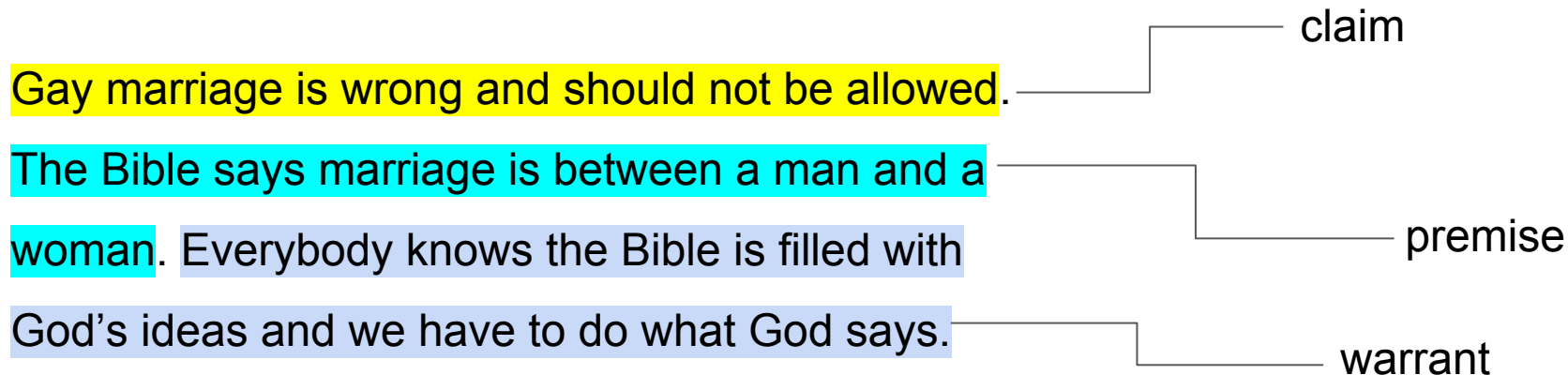
# Model: Argument and Warrant Example 1

Gay marriage is wrong and should not be allowed.

The Bible says marriage is between a man and a woman. Everybody knows the Bible is filled with God's ideas and we have to do what God says.



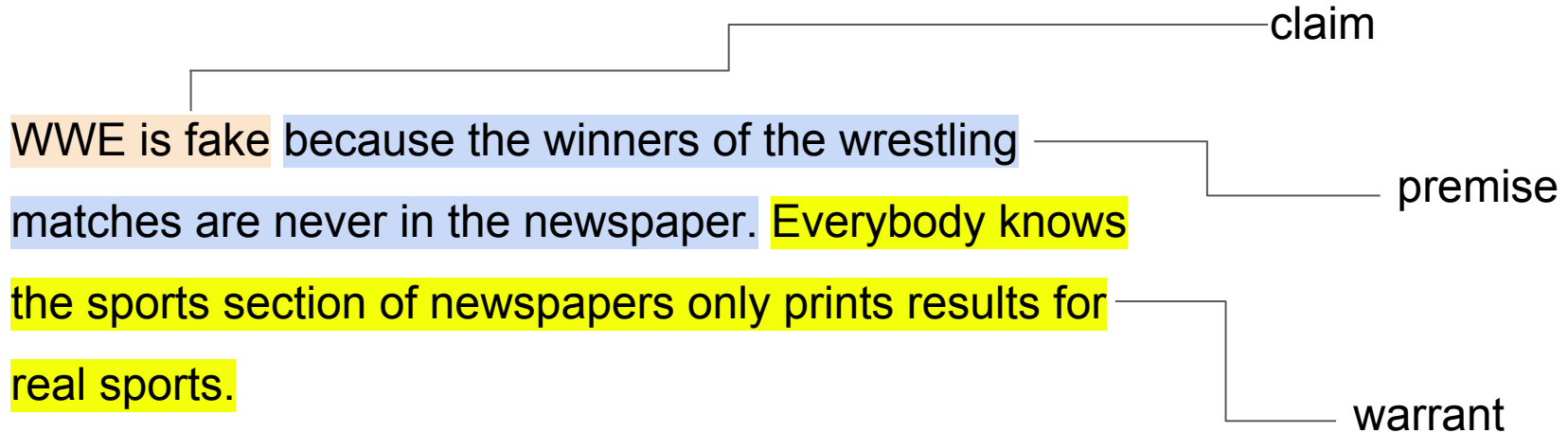
# Model: Argument and Warrant Example 1



## **Model: Argument and Warrant Example 2**

WWE is fake because the winners of the wrestling matches are never in the newspaper. Everybody knows the sports section of newspapers only prints results for real sports.

# Model: Argument and Warrant Example 2



# Gateway 1: Facts and Warrants

1. Question: What's on the bottom?
2. Evidence
3. Warrant
4. Probable conclusion



## Gateway 2: Facts and Warrants

Jack is visiting a small town. He wants to get a haircut.

- Barber 1: bad haircut and a messy shop
- Barber 2: nice haircut and a clean shop

Which barbershop should Jack choose?



# Writing 1: Picture Analysis

What are they doing?



## Writing 2: Murder Mystery

The husband is dead.

The wife told the police her husband was drunk and fell down the stairs.

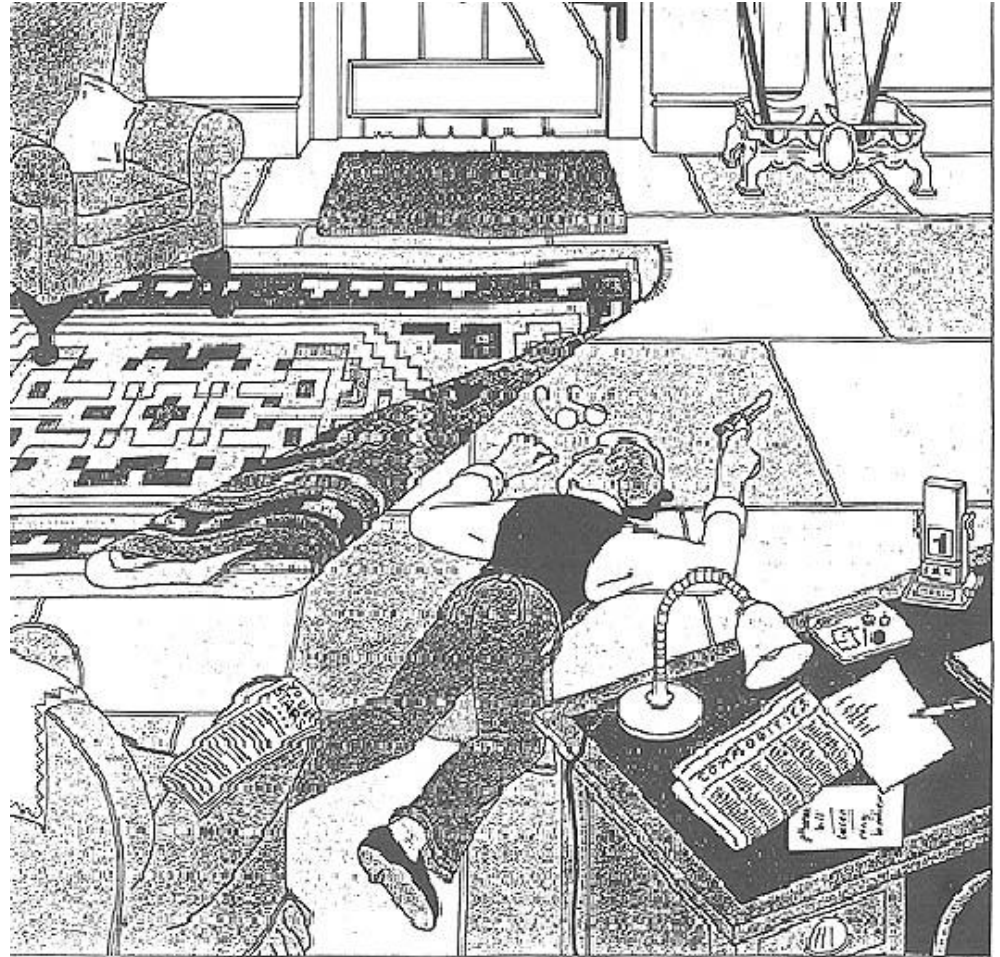
Do you believe her?



## Writing 3: Murder or Suicide?

The police found Winston dead in his house.

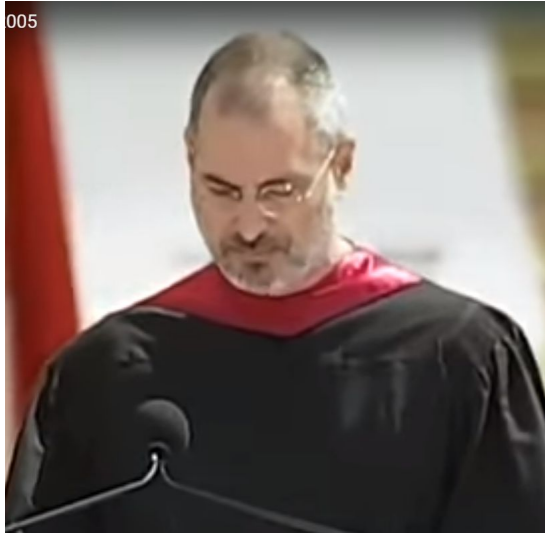
Was it murder or suicide?





# Writing 4 and 5: Analysis and Evaluation

Steve Job's Stanford University convocation speech. (1:04)



A TED talk on the value of less. (5:42)



# Writing 6: Analyze & Interpret

Describe and explain **changes** in Korean food consumption patterns.

**Table 1.** Change in intake by food groups (per capita per day)

(unit : g)

Food groups	1969	1974	1979	1984	1989	1994	1995	1998
Cereals and grain products	559	500	478	404	354.9	310.4	308.9	347.0
Legumes and their products	24.9	27.1	34.9	59.6	55.5	33.9	34.7	31.0
Potatoes and starches	75.6	52.9	26.9	32.5	55.3	19.0	21.2	36.6
Vegetables								
Fresh	191	190	216	141	128	-	-	-
Processed	80	99	72	114	96	275.7	286.2	283.5
Fruits	48.1	27.7	27.8	68.3	77.6	122.2	146.0	197.5
Seaweeds	0.8	4.8	2.7	3.10	7.16	7.4	6.6	7.7
Seasonings, beverages	41.0	36.8	23.3	22.4	35.5	53.5	47.6	116.0
Vegetable oils and fats	-	2.3	3.9	5.68	4.80	7.5	7.5	5.7
Others	3.5	0	0	0.19	10.14	12.9	11.9	17.5
Subtotal	1,024	941	885	850	824.9	843	871	1,042.5
Meat, poultry, and their								
Eggs	4.2	1.6	12.8	13.3	18.5	20.0	21.8	22.5
Fish and shellfish								
Fresh	12.1	39.8	57.3	53.8	47.8	-	-	-
Processed	6.1	9.3	11.9	24.2	26.2	82.6	75.1	66.3
Milk and dairy products	2.4	1.7	10.4	20.2	52.9	65.7	65.6	87.5
Animal oils and fats	-	0	0	0.04	0.4	0.2	0.1	2.1
Others	0.6	0.1	0	0.08	0	-	-	0.1
Subtotal	32	59	119	141	191.1	224	230	247.5
TOTAL	1,055	1,000	1,004	991	1,016	1,067	1,101	1,290.0
Percentage of plant food (%)	97.0	94.1	88.2	85.8	81.2	79.0	79.1	80.8
Percentage of animal food (%)	3.0	5.9	11.8	14.2	18.8	21.0	20.9	19.2

# Writing 7: Email Writing

Context:

- Student works in a phone store.
- Potential customer looking at Samsung and iPhone.
- Asks for advice.
- Students make recommendation based on data sheet specs.
- Email message written using inquiry framework.

Table 1  
Smart Phone Specifications

	Apple iPhone 4S	Samsung Galaxy S4
RAM	1 gigabyte	2 gigabyte
Memory	Up to 64 gb	Up to 64 gb
Rear camera (megapixels)	8 mp	13 mp
Battery life	About 8 hours	About 11 hours
Replaceable battery	No	Yes
Screen size (length)	4 inches	5 inches
Expandable memory	No	Yes
Play HD video	No	Yes
Basic Price (USD)	\$699	\$549
Average customer rating	4 stars (out of five)	4.5 stars (out of five)

Subject: smart phone questions

Hi Gerry,

Thanks for your email and questions about which smart phone might be best for you. Please find my answers below.

1. Picture Quality. The Samsung camera phone can take pictures with 13 mp. In contrast, the Apple camera has 8 mp. Because digital pictures are made from pixels, we usually think more megapixels means better quality pictures. Therefore, the Samsung seems like the best choice for you because it takes better quality pictures.
2. Memory. Both smart phones come with up to 64 gig of memory. However, the Samsung has a card which can expand the phone's memory. If photographers take lots of pictures in rural areas, they need lots of extra memory. Therefore, the Samsung seems like a better choice for you.
3. Battery Life. The Apple battery lasts about 8 hours before it needs a recharge. In contrast, the Samsung battery lasts about 11 hours. The Apple battery is fixed and cannot be replaced. This is different from the Samsung, which uses a replacement battery system. When people work in the countryside, they cannot easily recharge their phone batteries, so it's a good idea to have extra battery power. Therefore, the Samsung phone seems like a better choice for you.

Based on the picture quality, memory and battery life, I recommend the Samsung Galaxy S4. It seems like the phone that will best meet your professional requirements.

I hope this information is useful. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Ann Sullivan  
Assistant Manager  
ABC Phone Company  
010-555-6534

# Other Writing Matters (1)

Improve Fluency

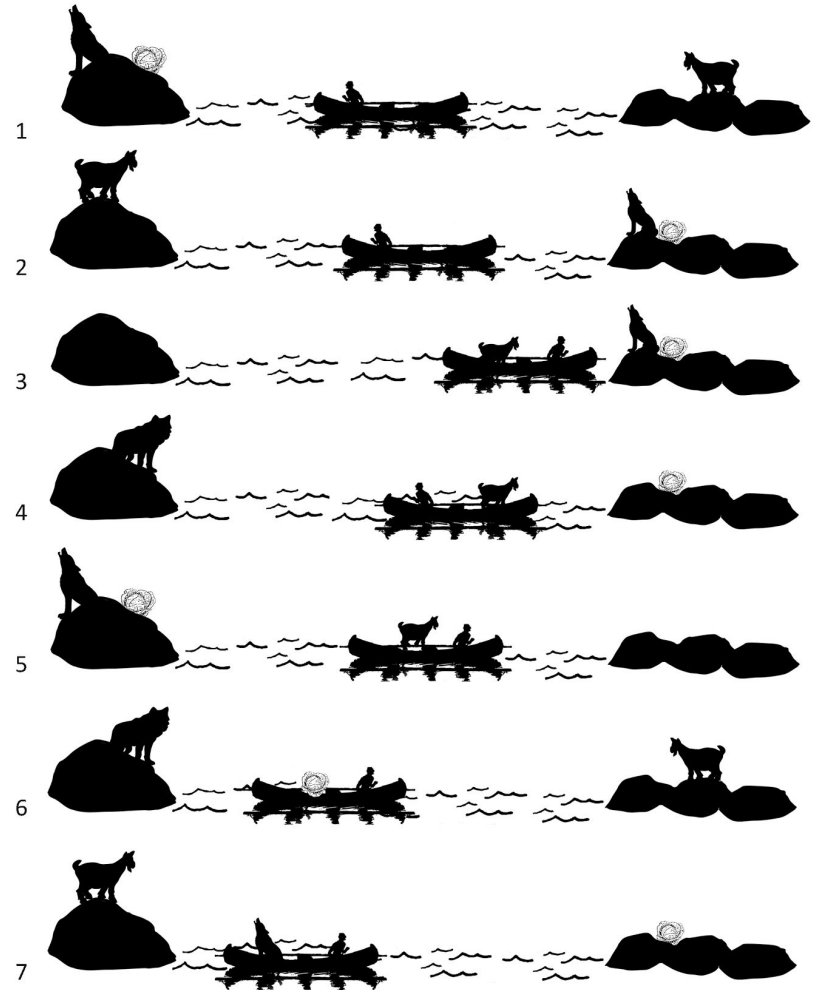
- timed repeated writing



# Other Writing Matters (2)

Improve Proficiency

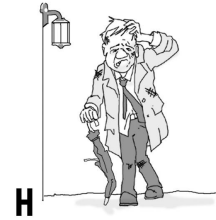
- articles and synonyms



# Other Writing Matters (3)

Improve Style (sentence variety)

- appositives and complex sentences



# Wrap Up

What's the takeaway?

- A framework to help students write well-reasoned arguments
- 3 groups of resources: models, gateway and long exercises
- 3 activities to support student writing needs (more quickly, more accurately and more stylishly)



# Which way is the bus going?

To the left.

How do we know that?

