

## Twelve Tests of an Arguable Issue

Do You Have an Arguable Issue?

If you cannot answer yes to all of these questions, change or modify your issue.

Your issue (phrased as a question): \_\_\_\_\_

YES	NO	
		1. Is this an issue that has not been resolved or settled?
		2. Does this issue potentially inspire two or more views?
		3. Are you willing to consider a position different from your own and, perhaps, even modify your views on this issue?
		4. Are you sufficiently interested and engaged with this issue to inspire your audience also to become interested?
		5. Do other people perceive this as an issue?
		6. Is this issue significant enough to be worth your time?
		7. Is this a safe issue for you? Not too risky? Scary? Will you be willing to express your ideas?
		8. Can you establish common ground with your audience on this issue—common terms, common background, and related values?
		9. Will you be able to get information and come up with convincing insights on this issue?
		10. Can you eventually get a clear and limited focus on this issue, even if it is a complicated one?
		11. Is it an enduring issue, or can you build perspective by linking it to an enduring issue?
		12. Can you predict one or more audience outcomes? (Think of your classmates as the audience. Will they be convinced? Hostile? Neutral? Attentive? Remember any outcomes at all can be regarded as significant in argument.)