

# Chapter 2

## Reasoning strategies



### 1. Gather the evidence

Firstly, as an opinionmaker, you must develop your main contention and supporting reasons based on all the available data. Then you must examine the evidence, logically and sensibly.

### 2. Think about the evidence

Secondly, you must have sound and logical reasons to prove your point of view. You must evaluate the information in an intelligent, fair and perceptive manner. Accordingly, you will use a number of reasoning tools to evaluate its currency and credibility. Consider what the experts say. Are there sound reasons for accepting their opinions? Are the facts relevant?

### 3. Compare and contrast

Authors often draw conclusions and make connections based on the evidence. By comparing situations, events and policies with something more familiar, authors can help the audience gain a fresh perspective.

### 4. Show a logical sequence

You must organise your reasons in a logical sequence and guide the reader through your discussion. It is important to signpost your topic sentences and rebuttal and connect the evidence to your reasons.

***The government must implement stricter rules and regulations for jet skiers before another beach disaster occurs. Clearly in the light of Mr Robert Brewster's death, jet ski owners cannot be trusted to see a swimmer's head bobbing above the waves. Mr Kennedy, a lifesaver at St Kilda beach, has observed their reckless behaviour and states that he has witnessed hundreds of jet skiers "blatantly ignoring the rules". Given that there has been an increase of 18.6 per cent in the number of jet skiers over the past two years it would seem logical to assume that many "near misses" and fatalities will only increase. Evidently laws that allow young teenagers to surf the seas on restricted licences with little training make the ocean unsafe for ordinary beach-goers.***

#### Your paragraph



Real-life example



Eye-witness account



Facts and figures



Connections