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| **Lecture Notes: FAQs About the Thesis** |
| * **Why is my “Although” Clause Not an Argument???**   + The typical problem with the “although” clause is that students want to state facts, not opinions.   + **Example of stating a fact, not an argument:**     - Although Henry knows that the French army outnumbers the English by five to one…       * Why: This is provable. We can count the numbers. We can also prove that Henry knows of his numerical disadvantage.       * A fact is not an argument, though it may be used to support one.     - Although Henry wants to win the battle…     - Although Henry knows his soldiers do not think they can win… * **SOLUTION** * In finding a minor argument, do the following: * **LOOK AT BEGINNING TACTIC VERSUS ENDGAME**   + Ask, “What does the speaker state or argue at the BEGINNING of the passage? What values is s/he appealing to?   + What values does s/he appeal to by the END?   + If those two things are different – and they usually are – it’s because the speaker has started off with a minor argument, it hasn’t done the full job, and she then has moved to a major argument. * **LOOK AT SPACE ALLOCATION**   + Ask, “Which part of the argument gets the most space devoted to it?”   + The major argument gets more space. * **LOOK AT GRAMMAR**   + Ask, “Which ideas are being expressed in subordinate clauses?” Those tend to be minor arguments. * **LOOK AT BLING**   + Bling can be any tactic of language, but especially imagery and figurative language   + OR distinctive sentence structure such as parallelism   + We “bling” the major ideas more than the minor ones.’ * **How do I Fix My “Although” Clause???**   + Go through the procedures above   + Rewrite the clause using “value-laden” language to describe what’s going on   + Use the word “argues.”     - Example of changing a fact-based “Although” to an argumentative “Although”:       * First try: *Although Henry knows he and his men are outnumbered five to one…(fact)*       * Second try: *Although Henry initially tries to argue that glorious and honorable death is an utterly desirable fate…*     - Why is it better?       * It’s focused on the speaker’s argument, not what he knows.       * It uses value-laden language like “glorious,” “honorable,” and “desirable.”       * It uses the word “argue.”     - Example of changing a tactic-based “Although” to an argumentative “Although”:       * First try: Although Henry initially browbeats his soldiers into submission, nevertheless…       * Second try: Although Henry initially argues that personal honor is a value his soldiers should appreciate as much as he does. . .     - Why is it better?       * It’s focused on the speaker’s argument, not his tactic.       * It uses the word “argue.” * **Why can’t I just say, “The author uses pathos”? (Or ethos or logos)**   + It is far too vague.   + All authors use pathos. * Can I get an example?   + Yes.   **Example of an Effective AP Thesis**  Although in her famous speech, “Ain’t I a Woman?” the abolitionist Sojourner Truth initially uses vivid imagery to argue that intellectual capacity is essentially irrelevant to the question of equal rights, Truth then makes the powerful choice to turn the focus of the speech on herself and her personal experience, ultimately arguing that the same people who would deny equal rights to ‘weak’ women and those who would enslave African-Americans are engaged in an illogical contradiction, a contradiction Truth exposes to persuade her audience to grant equal rights to all Americans regardless of color or gender.   * **Where do I take it from here?**   + Use the basic structure of the thesis to organize your paper:   + **Example**:     - I. Minor argument + tactic + purpose     - II. Major argument + tactic + purpose |