

Please answer these questions after reading the series of articles from *Argument in America* that has been assigned over the last two weeks. Write down your answers on a separate sheet of paper or go ahead and use the text from this PDF by pasting it into a Word document and completing your answers there.

Definition:

1. If the structure of a **definition argument** is “Something is a ____ because it has these criteria,” how might you structure an argument about frequently employed American argumentation strategies following this model (bearing in mind that you might be generalizing)?
2. What **evidence** does Tannen use to support her claim that America is an “argument culture”?
3. What **evidence** does Burke use to support his idealized version of a rhetorical exchange, that a “rhetorician . . . is one voice in a dialogue” (483)? If a rhetorician is indeed “one voice in a dialogue,” what is the benefit of that?

Evaluation:

4. According to your handout, an **evaluation argument** follows the form “Something is good (bad, the best, the worst) if measured by certain criteria (practicality, aesthetics, ethics).” Following this model, how might you complete this statement derived from Tannen’s claim?

Within the context of argumentation habits in America, framing questions as dichotomies is _____ because _____.

5. Your handout mentions that essay investigations in which you **evaluate the effectiveness** of something will follow the form of evaluation arguments. Think about Tannen’s example of the woman asking the man to stop smoking in a non-smoking area. What is Tannen’s conclusion about the effectiveness of this woman’s tactic? Why does she assess it this way?
6. Choose a sub-topic of the larger idea of “American argumentation” with which we’ve been dealing. (Think “manageable”!) Following the handout’s model, write a **debatable** (meaning, not everyone will agree with you) **evaluative claim**, also known as a “thesis,” below.