

ARGUMENT: AN INTRODUCTION

Adapted from Chapter 1 ("Argument: An Introduction")
Writing Arguments: A Rhetoric with Readings, 9th edition
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WHAT DO WE
MEAN BY
ARGUMENT?

“ARGUMENT” DOES NOT HAVE TO BE A FIGHT OR A QUARREL







It's Actually Possible to "Respectfully Disagree"





ONE MORE THING TO
KEEP IN MIND ABOUT
ARGUMENTS .

THEY CAN BE EXPLICIT
OR IMPLICIT.

By “EXPLICIT” we mean arguments that DIRECTLY state their claim and supply REASONS and EVIDENCE to support their claim.

EXAMPLES OF EXPLICIT ARGUMENTS

San Jose Mercury News ■ Wednesday, May 15, 1991 9B



Trying to engineer walkers and cyclists off the expressway

by Akos Szoboszlai

LAST AUGUST, county traffic engineers destroyed the sidewalk on Montague Expressway near Coyote Creek. They excessively reduced the shoulder on that section, which is

for bicycles. Adding more lanes for autos, Santa Clara County engineers could have built a wider sidewalk and kept a 5-foot shoulder. Instead, they destroyed pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Some years ago, traffic engineers eliminated the shoulders on San Tomas Expressway (formerly Camden Avenue) crossing Los Gatos Creek. Pedestrians frequently use the well-worn trails leading to the bridge from Los Gatos Creek Park. For many years, the traffic engineers have forced these pedestrians to walk in the path of 45 mph auto traffic. Last year, engineers stated that the "solution" to the problem is to prohibit pedestrians (including transit patrons).

Fortunately, a January memo from Larry Reuter, director of the county Transportation Agency, states that "this section of roadway needs to have pedestrian facilities installed."

Bicyclists have repeatedly stated that expressways are the safest roads for bicycling because they have one-fifth as many intersections (where most accidents occur), few driveways and no parked cars (that pop doors open when you least expect it). Expressways also decrease travel times. Yet, with the exception of the city of Palo



Wanting only to maximize auto use, traffic engineers have inserted in the general plan the prohibition of pedestrians (including transit patrons) and bicycles.

irrotational, they are not when one analyzes the goals of traffic engineers, which are to: 1) increase automobile capacity, 2) decrease automobile travel time, and 3) maximize vehicle miles traveled and the market share of automobiles.

Increasing capacity decreases travel time and increases vehicle miles-traveled, which increases congestion which brings political pressure for more road construction, thus completing the vicious cycle.

COMMENTARY

The Jupiter Courier

THE JUPITER COURIER Sunday, November 1, 1998

Put unopposed on ballot

By Richard Grayson

As election day approaches, political analysts are evaluating the outcome of Nov. 3. Here's one prediction I can make with absolute certainty: not a single voter in the counties of Palm Beach and Martin will cast a ballot for any candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The names of Mark Foley, Alcee Hastings and Robert Wexler will not appear on the ballot because those congressmen have already been re-elected.

Like most of Florida's 23 representatives, these politicians don't have to face the voters in November because no candidate filed to run against them last May. When only one candidate files for election, that candidate's name does not appear on the ballot.

Florida's ballot-access laws are among the toughest in the U.S. In order to get on the ballot as a candidate for Congress, a citizen has to pay a filing fee of \$10,000 or sign a petition with thousands of signatures, a process so onerous that it has been achieved only once in the past 20 years.

As long as incumbents are running unopposed, you might ask why bother placing their names alone on the ballot at other states? There's a principle at stake. Besides, Florida's process may even be unconstitutional.

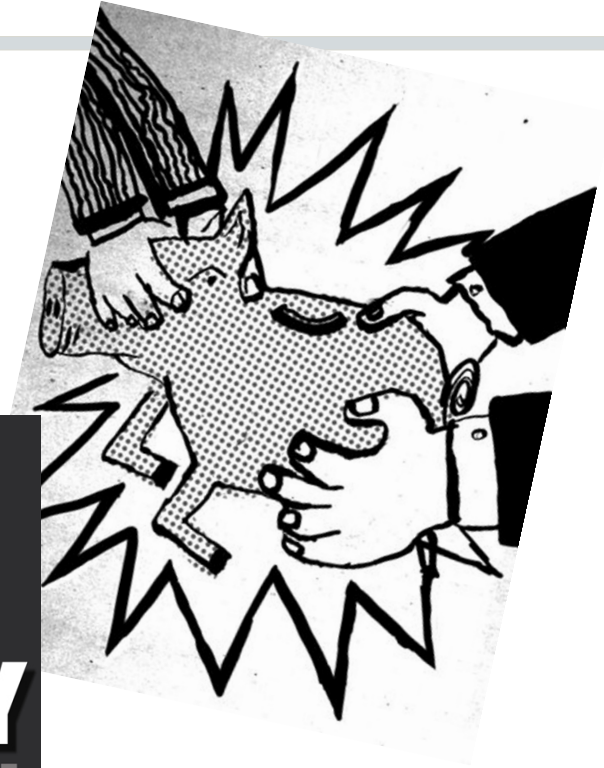
The Elections Clause of the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 4, Clause 1) provides that Representatives shall be elected in each State by the Legislature thereof; but the Congress may at any time by Law make or alter such Regulations. The Elections Clause gives Congress comprehensive authority to regulate the details of elections.

Not "prevent" the question of whether a state must always employ the conventional mechanics of an election. We hold today only place, it may not be consummated prior to federal election day. In ruling that a contested selection of candidates for Congress that is concluded before the federal election day violates the law, the court deliberately chose not to define the term "election."

For most of Florida's voters, the "election" of our U.S. representatives took place last May, when officials of the Division of Elections in Tallahassee declared that the candidate filing period had closed. I believe the state should change its law and allow all of its citizens to cast their votes for a candidate for Congress in November — or at the very least, to be aware that there is only one name on the ballot.

By “IMPLICIT” we mean arguments that INDIRECTLY suggest their claim without providing evidence their claim.

EXAMPLES OF IMPLICIT ARGUMENTS



Even though an implicit argument doesn't LOOK like a traditional argument, it still attempts to PERSUADE an audience towards a certain point of view using visual graphics, slogans, or other non-verbal signals that evoke an emotional response in the viewer.

PRACTICE ANALYZING TWO
IMPLICIT ARGUMENTS.

Analyze the implicit argument in the image to the right of the slide and answer the following questions on a sheet of scratch paper.

- A. What is the claim (value, belief, perspective, position) being made in this argument?
- B. What is an opposing or alternate view?
- C. How does the argument try to persuade its audience?
- D. How effective is this argument in making its claim? Why?



Now do the same thing
for the implicit argument
in this slide.

- A. What is the claim (value, belief, perspective, position) being made in this argument?
- B. What is an opposing or alternate view?
- C. How does the argument try to persuade its audience?
- D. How effective is this argument in making its claim? Why?



END SHOW

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