

# Using Rhetoric: Debate and Disagreement

A *Palimpsest* Workshop



# Snapshots of memory

Forgetting details

Compressing arguments

Structure > content

# How does meaning change?

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Paint a vivid picture

Order creates significance

Revisit key arguments

# What Is a Palimpsest?

Text written, erased,  
rewritten

Earlier traces remain

A metaphor for arguments

# Writing Exercise: Argument Revision

## Write your genuine position

State your honest view on the topic.

## Rewrite it after strong opposition

Revise your argument to counter strong challenges.

## Compare what changed

Analyse the changes made between versions.

This exercise is exploratory, not evaluative.

# Guidance for Writing

1

Keep claims precise

2

Notice which assumptions drop

3

Observe shifts in language

# Writing Time

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**10–15 minutes**

# Reflection Questions

Compare your original and revised arguments.

What changed?

What strengthened or disappeared?

Why did the revision occur?

# Rebuttal Insight

1

## Strong Rebuttal

Leads to nuanced adjustments  
Avoids abandoning core claims

2

## Weak Rebuttal

Replaces arguments entirely  
Lacks accountability

3

## Control Framing

Adapt arguments not cut down  
Shows better debating skill

# Palimpsest (Extension)

Reflective writing for debaters

Track argument evolution

Visit [palimpsest.digital](https://palimpsest.digital) for resources and tools for debaters.

# Closing Thought

Clarity persuades

Revision reveals thought