



# Center for Political Thought and Leadership

## Arizona State University

### Questions to ask as you read the document:

#### **What is the argument?**

In one sentence, capture the argument being made. It can be the thesis statement from the author as well. “(Author) argues \_\_\_\_\_” This is objective.

#### **How is it argued?**

Explain the outline of the argument. “Argues this by....” This is objective.

#### **Why does it matter?**

This part can show understanding of lesson objectives, standards or assess the overall experience. It’s the internalization of the material and can help answer questions or create new questions. “This matters because....” This is subjective.

#### **Example:**

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson argues for the states’ right to self-govern. He argues by defining the role of a government, ways Britain has not lived up to that, and that the states are free. This matters because it establishes a formula for revolutions and emphasizes Locke’s political theory, which we later see in the governing documents of the United States.