Tinker Thinkers

Rules for Better Building!

Now that you've built with the **TINKER THINKERS**, you know the difference between a conclusion and a reason. You've already tried to find "sneaky silent reasons," and test them with your "counterexample hammer." Now you're ready to use even more advanced tools to help you and others build good arguments! Here we go!

Tool #1
PERSUASION

You need to persuade others, and maybe even yourself, that knowing the "***sneaky silent reason***" is VERY important. So here's why!

Example #1:

Let's say that I told you that you should believe that,

"G's are R's because G's are B's."

It doesn't make sense, does it?
But that is no different from Carlos telling Poppy that:

"Kids who wear those Green jackets are Runny-nosed snobs, because kids who wear those Green jackets are kids who go to Bumble Berry Academy."

This too literally doesn't make sense.

If we put these words in colours so that we have a **COLOUR ARGUMENT**, and we put the conclusion on the bottom, what we have is:

REASON: ******** are ********
CONCLUSION: ******** are ********

It doesn't make sense for you to believe that **CONCLUSION** ******** are ******** because **REASON** ******** are ********

Tool #2
CONSTRUCTION

You need to construct the argument so it makes sense. If you add the ***sneaky silent reason***, the argument will make sense and, once you have an argument that makes sense, THEN you can test the reasons with your counter example hammer, to see if the argument is strong

You construct the ***sneaky silent reason*** by putting the blue part and the red part together (to make purple!).

The ***sneaky silent reason*** for the **COLOUR ARGUMENT** above is:

SSR: ******** are ********

So now the **COLOUR ARGUMENT** looks like this (Note that if the reasons are true, then the conclusion must be true):

SSR: ******** are ********
REASON: ******** are ********
CONCLUSION: ******** are ********

Remember, you have to construct the conclusion and reason FIRST, before you can construct the ***sneaky silent reason***.

REASON: ******** are ********
CONCLUSION: ******** are ********

Then you just put the blue part and the red part together, and, Presto! You have your sneaky silent reason.

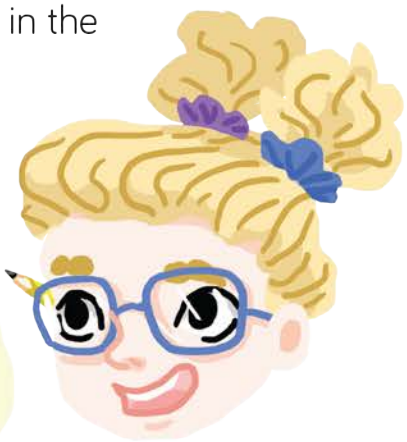
SSR: ******** are ********

LET'S TRY IT!

Example #1:

Sometimes it is easiest to start with the **REASON**, i.e., the blue part in the second line.

"Kids who wear those Green jackets are Runny-nosed snobs, because kids who wear those Green jackets are kids who go to Bumble Berry Academy."



Let's put the **REASON** in first. Carlos thinks kids who wear those Green jackets are runny-nosed snobs BECAUSE they go to the Bumble Berry Academy.

STEP 1:

REASON: ******** are kids who go to the Bumble Berry academy.
CONCLUSION: ******** are ********

Who are the kids who go to the Bumble Berry Academy? That's right:
Kids who wear those GREEN JACKETS!
So now we have both parts of the **REASON**.

STEP 2:

REASON: Kids who wear those Green jackets are kids who go to the Bumble Berry academy.

The **CONCLUSION** must have the same green part, so you only need to fill in the red part to get the **CONCLUSION**, which would be:

STEP 3:

CONCLUSION: Kids who wear those Green jackets are runny-nosed snobs.

STEP 4:

You know that the ***sneaky silent reason*** must be the blue part and the red part put together.

So the whole argument looks like:

SSR: Kids who go to the Bumble Berry academy are runny-nosed snobs.

REASON: Kids who wear those Green jackets are kids who go to the Bumble Berry academy.

CONCLUSION: Kids who wear those Green jackets are runny-nosed snobs.

Now that Poppy has built the argument, she has to decide whether or not to believe Carlos. The only way to do that is to test the strength of the **REASON** that supports his **CONCLUSION**. Like testing the strength of a table, she has to bash away at the legs to see if they are strong enough to hold the tabletop.

THEREFORE, Poppy knows that kids who wear those Green jackets are kids who go to the Bumble Berry academy. So that **REASON** seems strong.
But, when Poppy thinks about it, she realizes that her sister's friend, Jane, goes to Bumble Berry Academy and she is not a Runny-nosed snob.
Jane is a counterexample to the ***sneaky silent reason***. So Poppy knows that she should not believe Carlos, but she would not have known that if she had not been able to construct the ***sneaky silent reason***.

GREAT JOB SUPER TINKER THINKERS!

Now, grab a friend, a teacher, or a parent, and try tinkering around and constructing the arguments for the rest of the items below. And try to figure out what would show that they were weak. Use example one to help you!

And remember too, if you use weak reasoning, or if you allow weak reasoning to flourish around you, you cannot consider yourself a reasonable person, so INTO THE MUCK YOU GO!

Exercises:

1. You should zap that critter because it is yucky looking.
2. Paul has a really squeaky voice. Let's not be friends with him.
3. Because everyone will think you are amazing, you should get a big tattoo on your arm.
4. Ada didn't want to start an argument, so she was right not to tell her mother that she never ate the fruit in her lunch.
5. It will help the bo-bo-bananas get to Tataria. So you should diddily-pop
6. You should wear baggy blue jeans to school because everyone else is doing it.
7. Spiders do important work. You should never kill them.
8. Jacob makes fun of Poppy. That's OK. Poppy snorts when she laughs.
9. You should get a lot of sleep. It is important for your health.
10. Your mother should buy you new red sneakers because you really really want them.