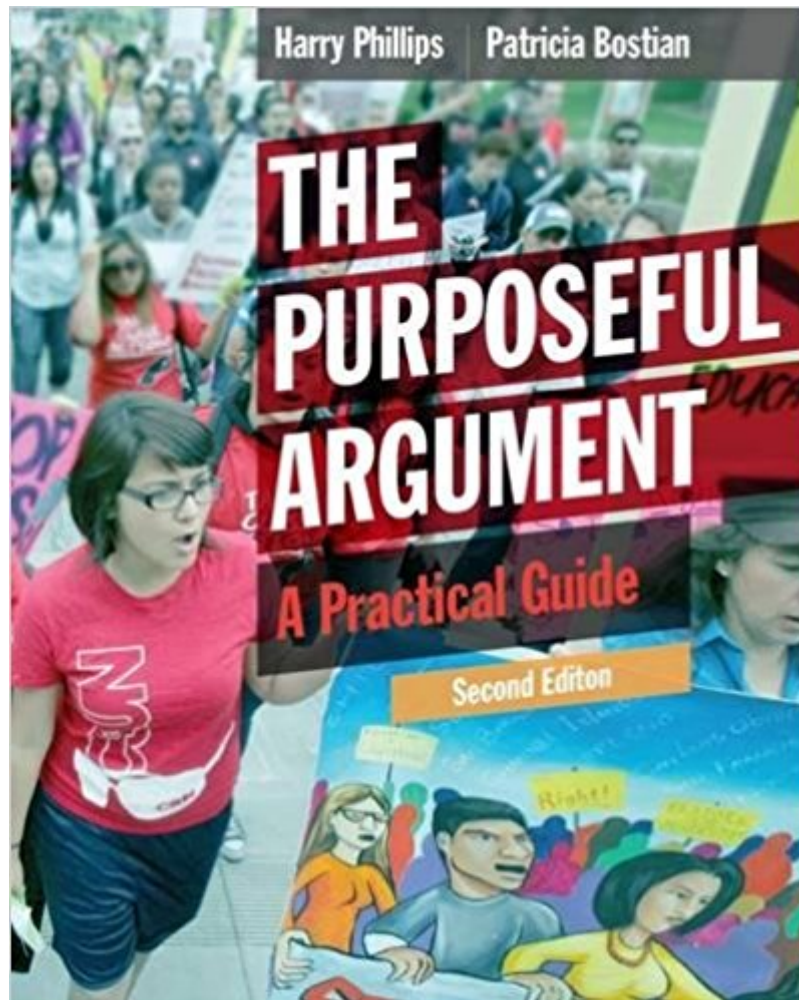




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# The Purposeful Argument: A Practical Guide



## Synopsis

Emphasizing the practical and the local, *THE PURPOSEFUL ARGUMENT: A PRACTICAL GUIDE*, 2E effectively brings argument into real life with community-based writing activities, illustrating that the tools and skills of argument are critical to readers today-and wherever their careers take them. With a focus on accessibility, the text encourages students to argue in response to issues in a variety of environments-school, workplace, family, neighborhood, social-cultural, consumer, and concerned citizen-and learn how argument can become an essential negotiating skill in everyday life. It offers thorough treatments of Toulmin-based and Rogerian approaches to argument as well as teaches the value of fully understanding the opposition, the importance of aiming for the middle ground, and how to use a microhistory to forge an unconventional position. The only introduction to argument written with the today's diverse student body in mind, *THE PURPOSEFUL ARGUMENT* uses vivid explanations, detailed examples, and practical exercises to guide students step by step through the process of building an effective argument. In addition, a rich anthology of arguments covers a wide range of today's leading issues.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The sections on evaluating resources are superb. ... The section on evaluating Internet sources is one of the best I've seen." "The Purposeful Argument] brings in some elements of classical argument, but it also emphasizes how students are engaged in arguments in so many of their own communities."

Harry Phillips earned a Ph.D. in English from Washington State University (WSU) in 1994 and an M.A. in English with a minor in Education from North Carolina Central University in 1988. From 1994 to 2009, he was Instructor of English at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he regularly taught Argument-Based Research and a range of American literature courses. He began teaching argument in 1993 at WSU and recommended that this course be a part of the North Carolina Community College Common Course Library, a recommendation that led to the course being adopted across the N.C. Community College system. He continues to view argument as an essential set of skills both for two- and four-year college students, as well as for everyday people intent on crafting effective argument. Dr. Phillips was curator of native plants at the North Carolina Botanical Garden and the principal author of *GROWING AND PROPAGATING WILD FLOWERS* (University of North Carolina Press, 1985). Since retiring from CPCC, he spends his time as a mediator, climate change activist, and avid gardener. Patricia Kennedy Bostian is the author of over 90 scholarly works for presses such as Greenwood and Facts on File. She is the editor of a peer-reviewed scholarly journal, *TEACHING AMERICAN LITERATURE: A JOURNAL OF THEORY AND PRACTICE* (<http://cpcc.edu/taltp>). She completed her doctoral coursework in composition/rhetoric at the University of South Carolina. For 23 years she has taught literature, composition, and humanities courses for several two- and four-year institutions, including Central Piedmont Community College, the University of South Carolina, and Johnson C. Smith University. She is completing her M.A. in Humanities from California State University.

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