**Activity 22: Arguments and Counterarguments**

**Purpose of this assignment:** The goal of this assignment is to help you build your discussion section with an eye towards contrasting your findings to those from the literature.

**How does it fit within the entire project?** This activity will help you write your discussion section. It is important to put your work in the context of the existing literature in that part of the paper.

**Tasks required:** Complete the handout below.

**Deliverable:** Completed version of this handout uploaded to [LMS] by [deadline].

**Estimated time:** About one hour

**Group work or individual work?** Group work.

**Note to instructor:**

* The appropriate number of tables should be added to the template below

**Step-by-step:** Note that for the first four of the following questions, I have provided an example (in gray) in the first table based on [provide the reference for a relevant example paper], a paper available on [LMS].

1. List in the top left cell of each table on the next pages the main findings of your work. Place one finding per cell.
2. For each of those findings, identify the associated argument. This could be an explanation for the pattern, an implication of this pattern, an association between this pattern and another one of your findings or a prior finding.
3. Add to the table a co-argument. This is a supporting line of evidence for your argument. It could be a similar argument made in a different study system, a response to an obvious weakness of the argument, another finding of yours (or from the literature) that is consistent with your interpretation, etc.
4. Finally, add to the table at least one (could be more) counterargument. This is a skeptical response to your interpretation, a caveat, a “hole” in your reasoning, another line of evidence that does not support the explanation proposed, etc.
5. For each of those cells, make sure to identify the relevant sources to cite (a figure or table of yours, a statistical test result [e.g., regression, p value, AIC score, Akaike weight], a paper from the literature, etc.)

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| **Finding** | **Argument** |
| [provided by instructor] | [provided by instructor] |
| **Co-argument** | **Counterargument** |
| [provided by instructor] | [provided by instructor] |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Finding** | **Argument** |
|  |  |
| **Co-argument** | **Counterargument** |
|  |  |