Elements of Argument

Claim: What do you want to convince the reader of?

Start by asking good, arguable questions and answer them in order to get ideas for your claim.

Reasons: Why should your reader believe that?

Once you have established your claim, make a list of reasons for why you think that claim is true.

Evidence: How do you know that?

Once you have a list of reasons, search for specific quotations, observations and statistics depending on the nature of your paper. If you cannot find evidence for your reason, replace the reason.

Acknowledgment and Response: Have you considered others' views?

Does anything complicate or contradict your argument? Acknowledge it!