



How to Argue with a Liberal On-line or Anywhere: (Revision date 1-12-2013)

Guidelines:

- Be factually prepared. This will allow you to be cool and confident in your position
- Always be truthful and factual, using substantive arguments that can be backed-up. Using the truth makes keeping “the story straight” easy.
- Never indulge in personal attacks
- Never respond to a personal attack on yourself, defensively or offensively, as this is a common misdirection tactic used to change the subject

So, how do you do this?

First, we are "debating," not arguing

- By properly identifying our purpose, our attitude becomes cool and crisp, staying on-task
 - Our discussion does not become personal
 - We are ready to employ facts
 - We are not emotional or heated

Personal attacks

- Again, never indulge in personal attacks
- Never respond to a personal attack on yourself, defensively or offensively. This is a very common mistake conservatives make
 - Remember, your opponent has admitted defeat once they go personal
- Keep the discussion formal – always use the opponent’s formal title (Mr. or Ms. Smith); never first names unless the opponent is a close friend or relative.
- For an example, during a discussion about the environment or global warming, the liberal might say out-of-the-blue, “I bet you don’t even recycle your trash!” If you start defending your spirit of environmental responsibility, the liberal has successfully changed the subject and will continue to the attack off subject. A good response to avoid this would be “What do my recycling habits have to do with the subject? Have you run-out of substantive arguments about <the subject>?”

Next, we need to know our position

- It is not enough to know that we are for or against a subject or issue
- We must understand the rationale behind our position in order to defend that position factually.
 - For example, you may be against "Global Warming." Can you define what global warming is? How it works or does not work? Do you know the rationale behind the left’s position and why it is flawed?
- Avoid antidotal justifications unless they are supportive of other facts and make your case more plausible
 - For example, there is scientific evident that the earth was considerably warmer during the period of the Roman Empire. Present day, Great Britain is too cold to



- grow grapes, yet, antidotally, there are tapestries depicting grape and wine production in Great Britain during the same period.
- This cannot be said enough, never use "talking-points," emotion or personal attacks
 - This is the method liberals use and it is easily defeated because it proves nothing.
 - Use your critical thinking processes to evaluate your position so that your position is always substantive
 - Liberals mentally stay within a "cocoon" or environment of Utopian idealism without challenging what they are hearing. Conservatives can fall into this trap also.
 - The left feeds liberals talking points and good sounding generalizations while discouraging critical thinking of any sort.
 - Since liberals do not bother to validate or vet their positions, they seldom are capable of forming substantive arguments and this is the reason they move to personal attacks very quickly
 - Apply critical thinking toward your position so a factual debate is your normal behavior
 - Be sure you build creditability over time by consistent, stable behavior.
 - If you do not, the left will use your past mistakes to misdirect the discussion and discredit your arguments

Know the other side's strategies which are outlined in Saul Alinsky's infamous 12 Rules for Radicals. It is worth your time to learn them

- Remember that "Uncle Saul's" strategies cut both ways; you can use them too, within appropriate honesty and ethics.
 - For example, Rule 2 is "Never go outside the expertise of your people." It results in confusion, fear, and retreat.
 - When you use substantive, factual arguments that the liberal has never heard, seen, or considered, you win
 - The most common tactic is Rule 5, "Ridicule is man's most potent weapon." There is no defense. It is irrational. It is infuriating.
 - When you refuse to respond and bring the discussion back to the subject, you win.
 - Yet another, Rule 8: "Keep the pressure on. Never let up." Keep trying new things to keep the opposition off balance. As the opposition masters one approach, hit them from the flank with something new.
 - We use this tactic by piling-on fact and reference, fact and reference without pause until they say "uncle." (Actually, they will call you endless names and sign-off)



Reference: Saul Alinsky's 12 Rules for Radicals

Here is the complete list from the book **RULES FOR RADICALS** by Saul D. Alinsky

RULE 1: "Power is not only what you have, but what the enemy thinks you have."

Power is derived from 2 main sources – money and people. "Have-Nots" must build power from flesh and blood. (These are two things of which there is a plentiful supply. Government and corporations always have a difficult time appealing to people, and usually do so almost exclusively with economic arguments.)

RULE 2: "Never go outside the expertise of your people."

It results in confusion, fear and retreat. Feeling secure adds to the backbone of anyone. (Organizations under attack wonder why radicals don't address the "real" issues. This is why. They avoid things with which they have no knowledge.)

RULE 3: "Whenever possible, go outside the expertise of the enemy."

Look for ways to increase insecurity, anxiety and uncertainty. (This happens all the time. Watch how many organizations under attack are blind-sided by seemingly irrelevant arguments that they are then forced to address.)

RULE 4: "Make the enemy live up to its own book of rules."

If the rule is that every letter gets a reply, send 30,000 letters. You can kill them with this because no one can possibly obey all of their own rules. (This is a serious rule. The besieged entity's very credibility and reputation is at stake, because if activists catch it lying or not living up to its commitments, they can continue to chip away at the damage.)

RULE 5: "Ridicule is man's most potent weapon."

There is no defense. It's irrational. It's infuriating. It also works as a key pressure point to force the enemy into concessions. (Pretty crude, rude and mean, huh? They want to create anger and fear.)

RULE 6: "A good tactic is one your people enjoy."

They'll keep doing it without urging and come back to do more. They're doing their thing, and will even suggest better ones. (Radical activists, in this sense, are no different than any other human being. We all avoid "un-fun" activities, and but we revel at and enjoy the ones that work and bring results.)

RULE 7: "A tactic that drags on too long becomes a drag."

Don't become old news. (Even radical activists get bored. So to keep them excited and involved, organizers are constantly coming up with new tactics.)

RULE 8: "Keep the pressure on. Never let up."

Keep trying new things to keep the opposition off balance. As the opposition masters one approach, hit them from the flank with something new. (Attack, attack, attack from all sides, never giving the reeling organization a chance to rest, regroup, recover and re-strategize.)



RULE 9: “The threat is usually more terrifying than the thing itself.”

Imagination and ego can dream up many more consequences than any activist. (Perception is reality. Large organizations always prepare a worst-case scenario, something that may be furthest from the activists' minds. The upshot is that the organization will expend enormous time and energy, creating in its own collective mind the direst of conclusions. The possibilities can easily poison the mind and result in demoralization.)

RULE 10: “If you push a negative hard enough, it will push through and become a positive.”

Violence from the other side can win the public to your side because the public sympathizes with the underdog. (Unions used this tactic. Peaceful [albeit loud] demonstrations during the heyday of unions in the early to mid-20th Century incurred management's wrath, often in the form of violence that eventually brought public sympathy to their side.)

RULE 11: “The price of a successful attack is a constructive alternative.”

Never let the enemy score points because you're caught without a solution to the problem. (Old saw: If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. Activist organizations have an agenda, and their strategy is to hold a place at the table, to be given a forum to wield their power. So, they have to have a compromise solution.)

RULE 12: “Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it.”

Cut off the support network and isolate the target from sympathy. Go after people and not institutions; people hurt faster than institutions. (This is cruel, but very effective. Direct, personalized criticism and ridicule works.)

from: <<http://www.bestofbeck.com/wp/activism/saul-alinskys-12-rules-for-radicals>>