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## Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

### Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



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#### Unit 3 - Snippet 58

What were your thoughts about the statement (*Anger is never without an argument but seldom with a good one*) that was presented to you in the last snippet? You may want to compare your thoughts with the following comment about the statement:

*You may remember that we discussed the meaning of the term 'argument' in the first unit and asked you to do some research in online dictionaries. (I checked Collins dictionary.) When reading the first part of the statement 'Anger is never without an argument', I thought it refers clearly to a conversation in which people disagree with each other angrily (a quarrel), but reading the second part 'but seldom with a good one' the meaning wasn't so obvious any more. I thought a 'good argument' is more likely referring to another meaning of the word argument: 'A statement or set of statements that you use in order to try to convince people that your opinion about something is correct'. I guess the author of the quote was intentionally playing with different meanings of the word 'argument'. Many people may associate anger with a quarrel but when reading the whole sentence doubts will come up whether a quarrel is indeed what is meant.*

In the next snippets, you will find out more about the meaning of 'argument', commonly used in research and philosophy and which we will use in this course.