Motivation
To maintain a peer production system such as Wikipedia, content must be evaluated and sometimes deleted. Encouraging newcomers is vital to maintaining the health of the encyclopedia, yet the deletion process is confusing and discouraging to new users, who are more difficult to retain if their first article is deleted [1]. Previous research has suggested socializing newcomers about deletion, in part because decisions made with the participation of newcomers are more likely to be reversed [2].

Goals
• Understand the arguments made in deletion discussions
• Develop argument templates which show the structure of good arguments—for either keeping or deleting content.
• Provide guidance and support for new users in structuring arguments according to Wikipedia’s rhetorical standards

A Typical Argument
One typical reason for deleting a Wikipedia article is that the topic does not deserve to be covered: it is not notable.

Arguments given in deletion discussions may involve:
1. Assertions of the appropriate policy to apply
   baseball notability guidelines
2. References to specific criteria in a policy
   Have appeared in at least one game in … any other top-level national league
3. Facts sourced to an external reference
   playing for Venezuela’s highest professional league
4. Interpretations and conclusions
   I feel he qualifies

This is an argument from rules based on the baseball notability guidelines. The strongest arguments use policies and make their inferences explicit.

References