**Diagnostic Questions: Making an argument Keen**

**Argumentation**

**Please apply the following diagnostic tests.**

You need to generate a **thesis** that falls into category #2 or #3.

**1.** Everybody who has read the work with some care would agree with my argument.

(Saying “yes” to this question means that you have *understood* the work, but you have not yet created a thesis.)

**2.** A reasonable person who has read the work might well disagree with me.

(Saying “yes” here means that you have a potential thesis. A strong paper would integrate a response to that reasonable person’s imagined objection to your interpretation.)

**3.** I noticed a combination of things about the work (through reading details closely) that many smart readers might have missed.

(Saying “yes” here means that you have used the questions listed above effectively. Now you need to work to integrate your observations so they support and enrich one another.)

**4.** Everybody will howl, “You must be crazy!!”

(You have gone too far off course in your interpretation. Go back to the brainstorming questions and try to find some common ground. Remember, being original does not mean merely being eccentric.)