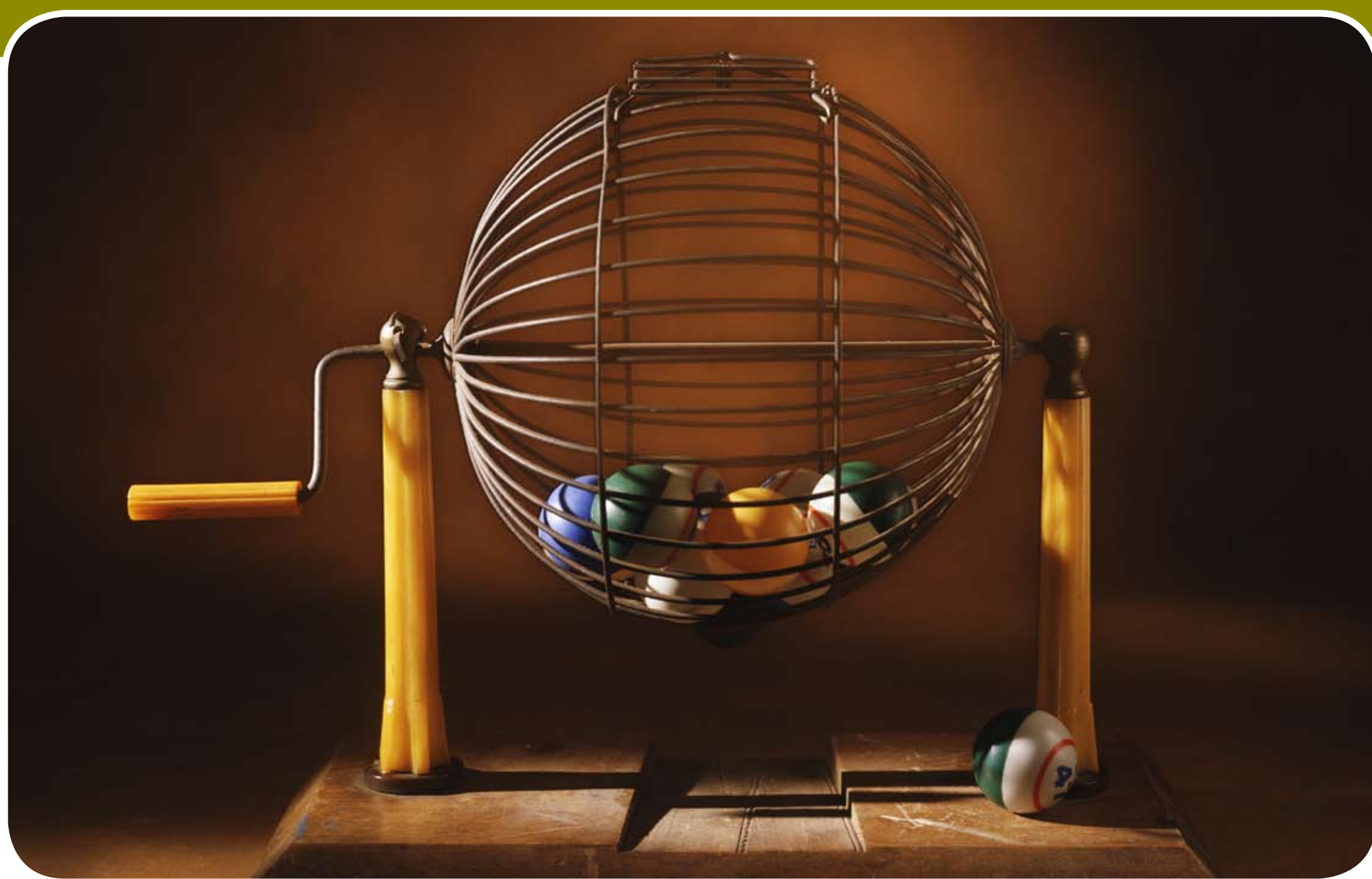


Reintroducing First-Year Students to Policy Based Reasoning using “Hot Topics”

Helping students to appreciate the use of policy based reasoning when transitioning from predictive writing to persuasive writing

STEP 1: SELECT “HOT TOPICS” THROUGH LOTTERY

- Professor creates a lottery
- Students select a topic and a “yes” or “no” position to argue



Topic Example: Should pageant winners’ titles be stripped for controversial behavior?

Topic Example: Should health issues faced by older retired NFL players prompt changes to the NFL pension and retirement scheme to accommodate players experiencing prolonged and extraordinary health care costs?

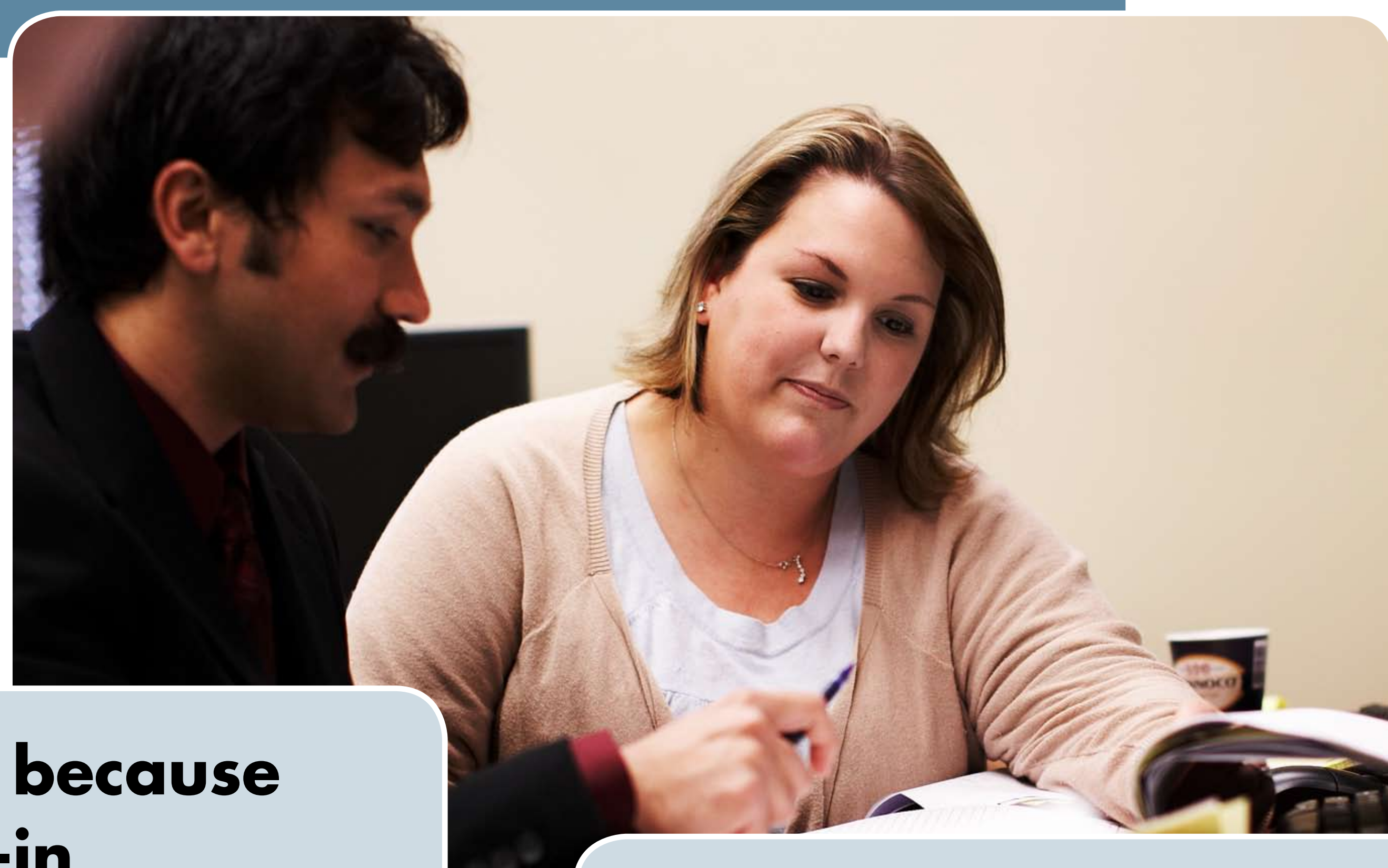
STEP 2: REVIEW POLICY RATIONALE

- Students review policy rationale techniques
- Students use these techniques to craft policy reasons to support their hot topic positions



STEP 3: PRESENT ARGUMENT

- Students practice and formulate arguments at home
- Students present their prepared arguments in class



“No, because built-in protections, like higher pay, reduce the need for a better pension plan.”

“Yes, because the NFL is wealthy and thus likely has the means to bear this burden.”

STEP 4: APPLY SKILLS ON BRIEFS & IN ORAL ARGUMENTS

Argument Before Hot Topics Exercise:

The Court should find Defendant’s proffered reason for rejecting Plaintiff’s application discriminatory because it is not tied to a legitimate business interest in that Defendant failed to apply his own rental policies consistently.

Enhanced Argument After Hot Topics Exercise:

The Court should find Defendant’s proffered reason for rejecting Plaintiff’s application discriminatory because it is not tied to a legitimate business interest in that Defendant failed to apply his own rental policies consistently. *Further, maintaining consistent rental policies helps to stem such racially motivated discrimination by ensuring that people of all races have an equal opportunity to secure housing.*