

If the purpose of the conversation is to . . .

Build Up an Idea Together

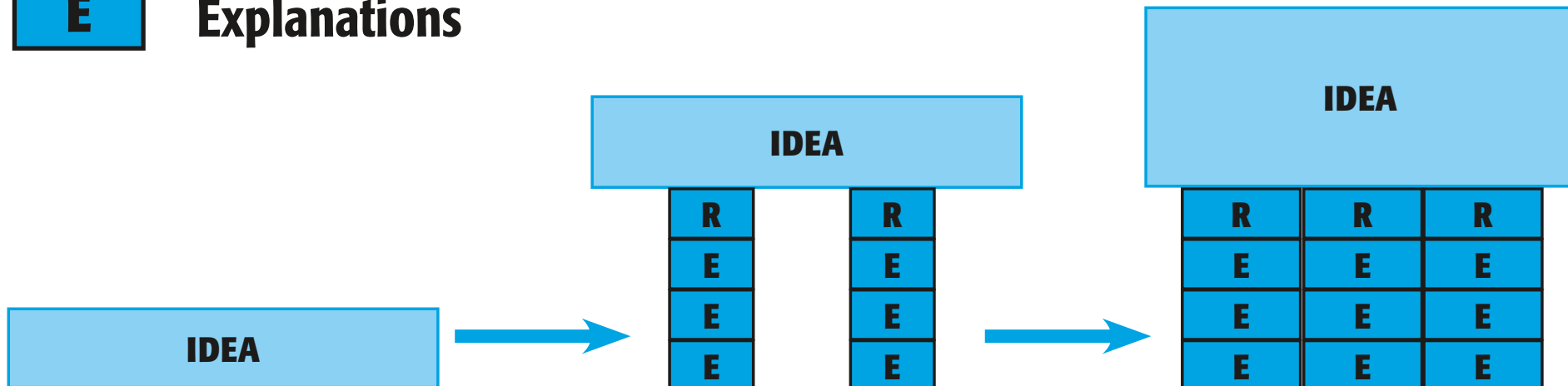
Then...

1. Express an idea, or ask others to express one.
2. Clarify the idea, or ask others for clarification.
3. Support the idea, or ask others to support it using reasons, evidence, examples, and explanations.

An idea can be many things:

- an opinion
- a hypothesis
- the theme of a story or poem
- the purpose of a text
- an explanation of how something works
- a cause or effect
- a character's motivation
- a way to solve a problem

R	Reasons
E	Evidence
E	Examples
E	Explanations

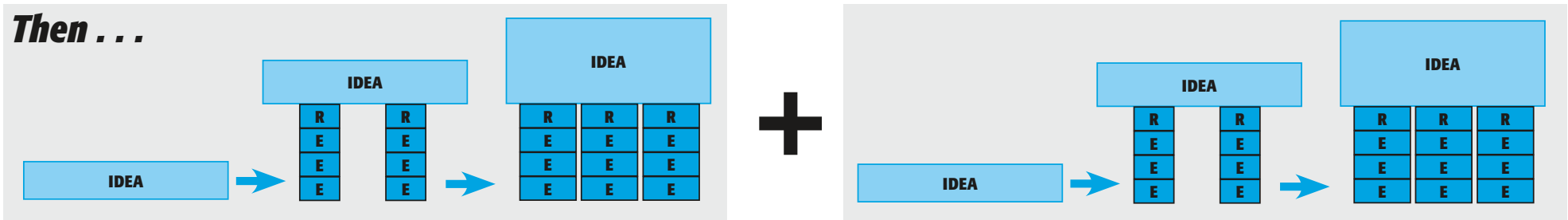


If the purpose of the conversation is to . . .

Choose the Strongest Idea or Opinion

e.g., decide the most important theme of a story or poem; make an ethical choice; rank multiple things; argue a side of controversial topics in science, history, literature, life.

Then . . .



A) Build up one idea.

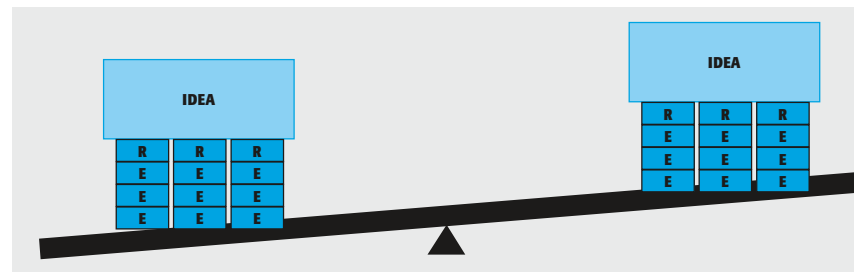
- Pose the idea.
- Clarify the idea.
- Support the idea.

B) Build up other ideas.

- Pose the idea.
- Clarify the idea.
- Support the idea.



C) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Reasons, Evidence, Examples, and Explanations.



D) Compare sides to choose which idea “weighs” more.