Strategy 1: Picking a Fight

Knock down a scholar’s argument and, in the best version of this strategy, replace it with one’s own.
Strategy 2: Ass Kissing, or Riding a Scholar’s Coattails

Agree with a scholar to gain evidence and authority. Possibly go on to defend the scholar from attack by another scholar, thus resolving a larger controversy.
Strategy 3: Piggybacking, or Standing on the Shoulders of a Giant

Agree with a scholar, but then complete (i.e., kiss ass), but then complete or extend the scholar’s work, usually by borrowing an idea or concept from the scholar and developing it through application to a new subject or new part of the conversation.

"I can see so much farther from up here!"
Strategy 4: Leapfrogging, or Biting the Hand That Feeds You

Agree with a scholar (i.e., kiss ass), then identify and solve a problem in the scholar’s work—for example an oversight, inconsistency, or contradiction.
Strategy 5: Playing Peacemaker

Identify a conflict or dispute between two or more scholars, then resolve it using a new or more encompassing perspective.
Strategy 6: Taking on the Establishment, or Acting Paranoid

Pick a fight with everyone in a critical conversation—for example, by showing how the status quo is wrong, a critical consensus is actually unfounded, or a dispute is based on a faulty assumption.
Strategy 7: Dropping Out, or Finding Room on the Margin

Focus on an issue in the margins of the crucial conversation, illuminating that issue and (in the best version of this strategy) ultimately redefining the conversation itself.
Strategy 8 Crossbreeding the Conversation with Something New

Inject really new material into the critical conversation to produce a new argument: bring in a theory from another discipline to reinterpret the evidence; bring in new evidence to upset an old theory or interpretation; or establish an original framework (a combination of theories, a historical understanding) to reinterpret the evidence.