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**1**

**WHAT IS A CLAIM IN AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY?**

In an argumentative essay, a claim is the central point or thesis statement you are making and attempting to persuade your readers to accept. You are advocating the main argument or position throughout the essay. A strong and well-defined claim is essential for a compelling argumentative essay.

(show claim examples jpg)

**Here are some key characteristics of a claim in an argumentative essay:**

**Clear and Specific**

Your claim should be concise and clearly stated, making it easy for your readers to understand your position.

**Debatable**

A strong claim can be disputed or argued. It should not be a statement of fact but rather a statement that requires evidence and argumentation.

**Focused**

Your claim should address a specific aspect of the topic. It shouldn't be too broad or vague.

**Arguable Position**

Your claim represents your stance on the issue or topic and should be arguable. This means that there should be valid opposing viewpoints that you will address in your essay.

**Evidenced**

Your claim should be supported by evidence, such as facts, statistics, examples, or expert opinions. Your essay will present this evidence to persuade your readers of the validity of your claim.

**Relevant to the Topic**

Your claim should relate directly to the topic or issue you discuss in the essay.

**Focused on a Single Idea**

An argumentative essay should typically revolve around a single central claim. If you have multiple claims, it may dilute the clarity and strength of your argument. For example, suppose you are writing an argumentative essay about the benefits of online education. In that case, your central claim might be: "Online education offers several advantages over traditional classroom-based learning, such as greater flexibility, accessibility, and cost-effectiveness."

Throughout your essay, you will provide evidence and reasoning to support and defend this claim, persuading your readers of its validity. Presenting a clear and compelling claim to guide your essay and engage your audience is essential.

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**2**

**WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF CLAIMS IN AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY?**

In argumentative writing, different types of claims serve specific purposes and require distinct approaches to persuade the audience effectively. Here's an explanation of five common types of claims used in argumentative essays:

Add types of claims anchor chart.

**Fact Claims**

**Purpose**: Fact claims aim to establish something as objectively true or false based on verifiable evidence. These claims are about presenting facts, and the primary goal is to convince the audience that a particular statement is accurate.

**Example**: "Climate change is caused by human activities."

**Debate Claims**

**Purpose**: Debate claims present a topic or issue subject to ongoing debate, discussion, or controversy. The writer takes a stance in favor of one side of the debate and provides arguments and evidence to support their position.

**Example**: "The use of standardized tests in college admissions should be abolished."

**Persuasive Claims**

**Purpose**: Persuasive claims seek to convince the audience to take a specific action, adopt a particular viewpoint, or change their behavior or beliefs. These claims often relate to policy recommendations, urging the implementation of specific actions or changes.

**Example**: "Schools should require students to participate in community service activities."

**Definition Claims**

**Purpose**: Definition claims focus on providing a clear and specific definition or interpretation of a term, concept, or phenomenon. These claims aim to establish a common understanding of the subject under discussion.

**Example**: "The term 'freedom of speech' should be defined as the right to express any opinion without censorship."

**Value Claims**

**Purpose**: Value claims express a subjective judgment about something, usually based on personal values, ethics, morals, or aesthetics. Writers argue for or against a subject's inherent worth or moral quality.

**Example**: "Capital punishment is morally wrong and should be abolished."

Each of these claim types serves a unique purpose in argumentative writing. Writers must carefully consider the nature of their argument, audience, and objectives when selecting the appropriate type of claim. Regardless of the claim type, supporting the argument with strong evidence, logic, and reasoning is essential to persuade the audience effectively. Additionally, acknowledging opposing viewpoints and addressing counterarguments can enhance the credibility and persuasiveness of the argument.

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3

**WHAT IS A CREDIBLE SOURCE IN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS?**

A credible source for argumentative writing provides accurate, reliable, and verifiable information. Here are some characteristics of credible sources:

**This page is included in all of our argumentative essay units. You can also sign up here to get it for free!**

**Show example page of credible sources-**

**Authors**

* Are they experts in their field?
* Have they written more than one article on the topic?
* Has anyone else referenced them?
* Are there any reviews on them?
* Can you find them on social media platforms?

**Books/Publishers**

* Are they well-respected in their content area?
* Do they use experts as authors?
* Do they have good reviews?
* If they publish articles on other topics, are they well-written?
* Do they offer information to prove they are reliable and trustworthy?
* Do they list a bibliography?

**Websites**

* Does it look professional? Does it have a professional name, or is it linked to a well-known organization?
* Can you tell if it has credible authors?
* Do they provide the date it was written?
* Does the date align with the content? Is it too old for a current topic?
* Are ads popping up everywhere?
* Is it original or rewritten from the original content?
* Does it give the original author proper credit? Is there a bibliography or links on citations?
* Do all the links work?

**Content in the Source**

* Is the content relevant to your topic, or is it a stretch?
* Is the information complete and thorough?
* Are the data/charts/graphs accurate?
* Does it use primary sources: firsthand testimony, original documents, or direct evidence?
* Are errors in grammar or mechanics evident?
* Does it have an academic tone? It sounds like a professional speaking.

Remember that evaluating the credibility of sources is crucial when conducting research for an argumentative essay. It's often a good practice to use a combination of sources to support your claims and ensure a well-rounded and well-supported argument.

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**4**

**WHAT IS A WARRANT IN AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY?**

In an argumentative essay, a warrant is the underlying assumption that connects the claim and evidence. It explains how or why the evidence is relevant to the claim and persuades the reader to accept the argument as valid. Essentially, the warrant provides the reasoning and logic that links the claim (the central argument or thesis) to the evidence (facts, examples, data, etc.). It bridges the gap between the two by showing that the evidence supports the claim.

**For example**, if the claim is that "Regular exercise improves overall health," the evidence might be a study showing a reduction in heart disease risk among individuals who exercise regularly. The warrant would be the implied or stated connection between this study and the claim, explaining that because the study demonstrates a link between exercise and reduced heart disease risk, it supports the claim that exercise improves overall health.

**Another example:** (show warrant example jpg)

In essence, the warrant is a critical component of effective argumentation, as it helps readers understand the logical connection between the evidence presented and the argument being made, making the argument more persuasive.

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5

**WHAT IS A REBUTTAL IN AN ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY?**

In an argumentative essay, a rebuttal is a counterargument or response to an opposing viewpoint. It is a crucial part of the essay's structure because it allows you to address and refute the arguments made by those who disagree with your position or claim. A well-constructed rebuttal strengthens your overall argument by showing that you've considered opposing views and can defend your stance effectively.

**For example:** (show rebuttal examples jpg)

Here's how the structure of a rebuttal typically works in an argumentative essay:

**Introduction to the Opposition**

Begin by introducing the opposing viewpoint or counterargument. Make it clear what position you are addressing.

**Present the Opposition's Argument**

Summarize the key points of the opposing argument as fairly and accurately as possible. You should avoid misrepresenting the opposing view.

**Rebuttal**

This is the heart of the rebuttal section. Here, you present your counterarguments to each point made by the opposition. You need to provide evidence, reasoning, or examples that undermine the credibility of the opposing argument. You might also expose any flaws or weaknesses in their reasoning.

**Concluding Statement**

Summarize your rebuttal by restating your original claim and showing how your counterarguments support your position.

By including a well-structured rebuttal, you demonstrate that you have thoroughly researched the topic and considered different perspectives. This can make your argument more persuasive, showing that you've thought critically about the issue and have strong reasons for your position. It also helps you anticipate and address potential objections your readers may have.

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