

# CLAIMS, REASONS, & EVIDENCE

ARGUMENT

LOGICAL SUPPORT

PROOF

A claim is your **ARGUMENT**. Claims are statements of belief that can be argued against. For instance, here is a claim:

*Bob should be elected class president.*

Why is this a claim? Because it is arguable – someone can disagree with it.

A reason is your **LOGICAL SUPPORT**. Reasons are statements of logic that support your statement or belief (i.e. your claim). For instance, here is a reason:

Bob should be elected class president *because he's a natural leader.*

Why is this a reason? Because it logically supports the claim and it makes the claim stronger – more difficult to disagree with.

Evidence is your **PROOF**. Evidence comes from sources, fieldwork, and research. It proves that your logical support (i.e. your reasons) is valid support for your statement or belief (i.e. your claim). For instance, here is some evidence:

Bob should be elected class president because he's a natural leader.  
*When we got lost in the Smoky Mountains on our class trip, Bob took control and navigated us back to civilization.*

Why is this evidence? Because it proves the reason (i.e. Bob is a "natural leader") that supports the claim (i.e. "Bob should be elected class president"), and it makes the claim even more difficult for someone to disagree with.

Ask these questions about

**CLAIMS:**

- is it arguable?
- is it obvious?
- is there a bias?
- is there a specific agenda the writer is working towards?
- is the claim general?

Ask these questions about

**REASONS:**

- is it logical?
- is it connected/ related?
- is it a consequence of sound thinking?
- is it fair minded & not biased?
- is it tangible ( it isn't purely conceptual & requiring the reader to assume certain knowledge they do not have)?
- is it reasonable?
- is it in support of the claim?

Ask these questions about

**EVIDENCE:**

- is it relevant?
- is it convincing?
- is it specific?
- is it general?
- is it connected to the reason?

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