

**MAKING
EVIDENCE-BASED
ARGUMENTS
CLAIM
OR
NOT-A-CLAIM**



A Claim Is...

- Clear
- Contestable
- Supportable

A Claim Is...Clear.

The argument's central idea can appear at different places in an argument. It might be explicit or implicit. It will likely be restated and rehashed in different ways within the argument. It's "the main thing". And because of that, it should be so crystal-clear that anyone encountering the argument will walk away being able to articulate it themselves.

A Claim Is...Contestable.

A claim isn't a mere statement of widely-accepted fact. And this is what makes a claim worth existing in the world. While a claim doesn't need to be controversial or debatable (which implies impassioned defense), we should be able to imagine other sides or other perspectives that might cause tension with our claim.

A Claim Is...Supportable.

For a claim to have legs, so to speak, it needs to be supportable. In other words, there needs to be enough evidence and logical reasoning behind the claim to substantiate and validate it. “Supportable” is a little different than “proveable”, isn’t it? Whether or not we can “prove” our claim depends on our audience, and while we can plan for their reactions, we can’t control them. But we can ensure that our claims are well-supported to meet a burden of proof.

**On each slide, you'll see a
“claim”. Your job is to sniff out
which ones are actually not yet
true claims. Be prepared to
defend your responses!**

Bonus Points: Can you take a not-a-claim
and turn it into a claim?

Social media influencers have more influence over students than celebrities do.

Claim or Not-a-Claim?



Claim!



**Streaming services have changed the way we
watch TV.**

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

Not a claim!
(This is just a verifiable fact!)

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

**SLEEP DEPRIVATION NEGATIVELY AFFECTS
TEENS' MEMORY AND FOCUS.**

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

**NOT A CLAIM.
(IT'S JUST A VERIFIABLE FACT!)**

Every student should be required to learn an instrument.

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

Claim!

**TAYLOR SWIFT IS THE MOST SUCCESSFUL
MUSICIAN OF HER GENERATION.**

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

NOT A CLAIM!

*You might not be a Swiftie, but objectively
she is the most financially-successful artist
of her time.*

**More teenagers use YouTube than
any other social media platform.**

Claim or Not-a-Claim?



Not a claim!



Group projects do more harm than good for student learning.

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

Claim!

**Blue light exposure makes it harder
to fall asleep.**

Claim or Not-a-Claim?



Not a claim!

