

**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?

Pineapple does not belong on pizza.

Claim or Not-a-Claim?



Claim!



**Video games help kids learn problem-solving better
than books do.**

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

Claim!

**DRINKING ENOUGH WATER IS NECESSARY
FOR YOUR BODY TO FUNCTION
PROPERLY.**

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

NOT A CLAIM

*This is just a fact ... whether or not you
enjoy drinking water!*

Recess/ PE Should be thirty minutes longer.

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

Claim

DOGS MAKE BETTER PETS THAN CATS.

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

CLAIM.

**Taking breaks helps students focus
better during class.**

Claim or Not-a-Claim?



Not-a-claim.

***We could look this up and find data
that supports this! It's a fact.***



**Students should be allowed to pick their own seats
in the classroom.**

Claim or Not-a-Claim?

Claim!

Fall is the best season.

Claim or Not-a-Claim?



Claim!

