

Summary of the Argumentative Essay

Introduction

- Set the context –provide general information about the main idea, explaining the situation so the reader can make sense of the topic and the claims you make and support. Define key terms, describe approach for paper.
- State why the main idea is important –tell the reader why he or she should care and keep reading. Your goal is to create a compelling, clear, and convincing essay people will want to read and act upon.
- State your thesis/claim –compose a sentence or two stating the position you will support with **logos** (sound reasoning: induction, deduction), **pathos** (balanced emotional appeal), and **ethos** (author credibility). State thesis clearly and unequivocally.

Body

- Construct arguments
- Support arguments with evidence
- Confront counter-arguments
- Write with a clear sense of audience

Conclusion

- Retrace steps
- Restate thesis
- Make a powerful closing

Some transitions for counterargument:

- Armed with these same facts, some will still argue that
- In response to the previous data, there are still those who believe
- The obvious and most overly used retort that many use in light of this is
- Some share opposing views on this and would have you believe
- On the other hand
- A leading detractor from this theory, Dr. XXX, believes that
- There are other sides to this debate, including the perspective that

Logical Appeal (Logos)- Facts, statistics
Pathetic Appeal (Pathos) Appeal to Passion
Appeal to Authority (Ethos)- Expert

Claim of Fact

- A claim of fact posits whether something is true or untrue, but there must always be the potential for controversy, conflict and conversion. i.e. The sun is shining to day is not a claim of fact, but signs and symptoms of a medical emergency can be, as well as a defendant accused of a crime.
- For your papers, think of the claim of fact as a problem to be solved with the claim of policy.
- Claims of fact must be specific as to time, place, people involved, and situation.
- Can you investigate your claim of fact through original research such as interviews or field work?
- If it is a text, how thoroughly, closely and critically can you read it to determine its flaws and strengths?
- Using descriptive and analytical writing, explore every angle of your problem, or claim of fact, to assess its level of truth.
- By limiting the scope of your study through specific claims of fact, you may avoid logical fallacies. Write down at least one counterclaim to your claim of fact.
- Be aware of fallacies of relevance, presumption, and ambiguity that may color your and your opponent's arguments.

Claim of Value

- Once you have your definitions, claims of value are easier to understand because of the many interpretations of those definitions.
- Examine your topic in terms of the phrases, "it is better to...", it is unethical that... , it is wrong to..., ...is more beautiful than....
- Allow your prejudices to surface in order to examine them.
- Claims of value also involve "taste" in art, literature, music, film, food etc.
- Claims of value involve judgments, appraisals, and evaluations.
- Everyone has a bias of sorts, often embedded in social, religious, and/or cultural values.
- At this point, you can OPEN UP your topic by comparing and contrasting your problem with a similar one in another time and/or place.
- When you "fight" with friends and colleagues over intellectual issues, you are usually debating claims of value.
- What are the competing values around this topic?
- Is it good or bad in whose eyes?
- Has the value been properly applied to the claim of fact?
- For example, you determined that the Menendez brothers killed their parents with a shotgun in the claim of fact, but the claim of value investigates all the reasons, g

ood and bad, for this act, in order to establish intent and/or mitigating circumstances.

Claim of Policy

- Claims of policy typically provide a solution or another series of questions in response to the claims of fact.
- Claims of policy are often procedural, organized plans.
- A counterclaim of policy posits that the problem exists, it's good to solve it a certain way, but there is a better solution than the one you have proposed.
- In medicine, claims of policy debate the best treatment for a certain condition. For example, Johnny has a bad back, caused by a herniated disc. It is imperative that he fix this problem because he is a fitness instructor. But there are three competing claims of policy for his treatment: back surgery, chiropractic treatment, or massage/exercise/postural retraining. Dr. Keefer posits that the third claim of policy is the best way to solve the initial claim of fact.

Lines of Reasoning

- In law, the claim of fact posits that O.J.Simpson is guilty of killing his wife. The claim of value would investigate intent, whether it is first degree, manslaughter, accident or whatever.
- The claim of policy would determine the punishment, be it acquittal, imprisonment, execution etc.

Claims in the Humanities

- Claims of fact center around a critical analysis of the text.
- Claims of value involve interpretations of the text to determine what is good, bad, pleasing, etc.
- Claims of policy could involve a new procedure regarding the text, awarding prizes, or making this interpretation part of some pedagogy.