

Recognise claims, reasons and evidence

How to use: Print first for the main practice. Then use the device to repeat activities and save progress.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1 Define claim, reason, and evidence and explain how they work together in an argument
- 2 Identify the claim, reasons, and evidence in a sample argumentative paragraph
- 3 Sort statements correctly into Claim, Reason, and Evidence categories
- 4 Explain why a claim without evidence is weak and how evidence strengthens an argument

MINI LESSON

Every strong argument rests on three building blocks: a claim, reasons, and evidence. A claim is a statement that takes a position. Reasons explain why the claim makes sense. Evidence is specific, verifiable information that backs up each reason. Together they form a persuasive argument that is hard to ignore.

The Three Building Blocks

1. Claim — the central position you are defending. It must be debatable, not a fact everyone already agrees on.
2. Reason — a logical statement that supports the claim by answering the question "Why is the claim true?"
3. Evidence — specific data, examples, expert opinions, or research findings that prove each reason.

A Model Argument in Three Parts

Model argument

Topic: school lunch breaks

What does a complete argument look like?

Claim: Schools should have longer lunch breaks. **Reason:** Students need time to recharge between lessons.

Evidence: A 2019 study found that students who had a 30-minute break scored 15% higher on afternoon attention tests than those who had only 10 minutes.

Notice how the claim takes a clear position, the reason explains why, and the evidence provides a specific, cited fact.

What Makes Evidence Strong?

- Specific — uses numbers, dates, or named sources rather than vague words like "many" or "some people".
- Cited — names the study, survey, or expert so the reader can verify the information.
- Relevant — directly supports the reason, not a different point.
- Recent — uses up-to-date data so the argument reflects the current situation.

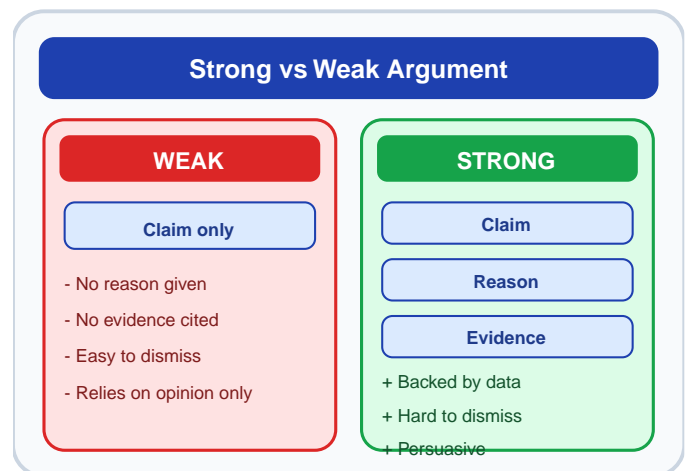
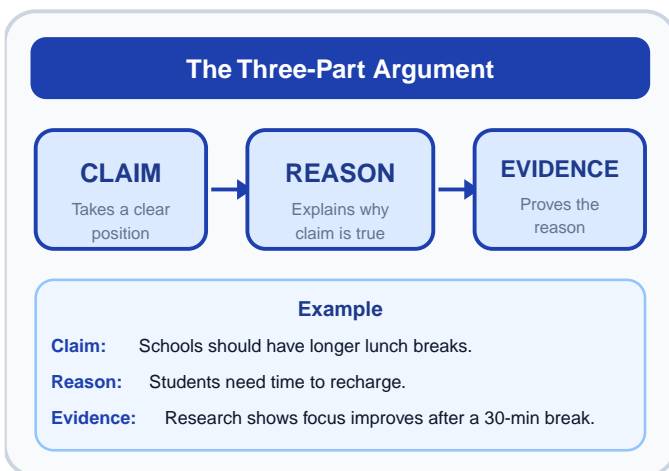
Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Circular reasoning — the reason just repeats the claim in different words: "School uniforms are good because uniforms are beneficial."
- Anecdotal evidence — using one personal story as if it proves a general truth: "My cousin tried it and it worked."
- Missing evidence — giving a reason but no supporting facts: "Healthy food improves focus." (How do we know? Cite something.)
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Confusing reason and evidence — a reason is a "why" statement; evidence is the proof that makes the "why" credible.

! Tip: when you read an argument, ask three questions: What is the claim? Why does the writer believe it? What proof is offered? If you cannot answer all three, the argument is incomplete.

VOCABULARY	
claim	A debatable statement that presents the writer's position on a topic.
reason	A logical explanation that answers why the claim is true.
evidence	Specific, verifiable information (data, examples, expert opinion) that supports a reason.
argument	A combination of a claim, one or more reasons, and supporting evidence.
anecdotal	Based on a personal story rather than broader data or research.
circular reasoning	A logical error where the reason simply restates the claim in different words.



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GUIDED PRACTICE — WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

Read the prompt and use at least 8 of the vocabulary words below. Write at least 75 words.

Prompt

Write 3-4 sentences explaining what you have learned. Use at least 8 of the vocabulary words below.

VOCABULARY — USE AT LEAST 8

Claim · Reason · Evidence · argument · position · proof · study · survey · data

Write at least 75 words.

EXERCISES — SORT & MATCH

Sort each statement into the correct bucket.

SENTENCES TO SORT

1. Homework should be optional.
2. Because students need time to rest and pursue hobbies after school.
3. A 2022 survey found that 70 % of students feel stressed by homework.
4. Schools should serve healthier meals.
5. Healthy food improves concentration and reduces afternoon fatigue.
6. The World Health Organization recommends five portions of fruit and vegetables daily.
7. All students should learn a musical instrument.
8. Because music training develops memory, coordination, and creative thinking.
9. A Stanford study showed that music students scored 20 % higher on reading tests.
10. Physical education lessons should be held every day.

Write the number of each sentence in the correct bucket below.

Claim	Reason	Evidence

“Flip the page upside down to see the answer key “

Claim: Homework should be optional. Schools should serve healthier meals. All students should learn a musical instrument. Physical education lessons should be held every day. Reason: Because students need time to rest and pursue hobbies after school. Healthy food improves concentration and reduces afternoon fatigue. Evidence: A 2022 survey found that 70 % of students feel stressed by homework. The World Health Organization recommends five portions of fruit and vegetables daily. A Stanford study showed that music students scored 20 % higher on reading tests.

EXERCISES — MATCH THE PAIRS

Draw a line from each statement to its category.

1. Children should spend less time on screens.	A. Claim
2. Because excessive screen time disrupts sleep patterns.	B. Reason
3. The American Academy of Pediatrics links over two hours of daily screen use to sleep problems in children.	C. Evidence
4. Public libraries are more important than ever.	D. Claim
5. Since they provide free internet, books, and learning resources to people who cannot afford them.	E. Reason
6. A 2021 report showed that 42 % of public library users have no internet access at home.	F. Evidence
7. Team sports build stronger social skills than individual sports.	G. Claim

Write the matching letter next to each number (e.g. 1-B, 2-A, 3-C...).

1 — ____ 2 — ____ 3 — ____ 4 — ____ 5 — ____ 6 — ____ 7 — ____

“Flip the page upside down to see the answer key “

1-A 2-B 3-C 4-D 5-E 6-F 7-G

PRACTICE — DICTATION / TYPING

Without looking back, write your own argument using all three parts.

From memory, write your own claim, reason, and evidence about a topic of your choice.
 Start with your claim (your position), add a reason (why it is true), then finish with evidence (a specific fact or study).

“Flip the page upside down to see the answer key “

claim / reason / evidence / because / study / research / data / proves

EXERCISES — MULTIPLE CHOICE

Circle the best answer.

1. A claim is best described as...

- A fact that everyone agrees on
- A debatable statement that presents the writer's position
- A statistic from a reliable study

2. What is the main job of a reason in an argument?

- To repeat the claim using different words
- To answer "why is the claim true?"
- To name a study that supports the topic

3. Which of these is the strongest piece of evidence?

- My friend tried it and it worked really well for her.
- Many experts think this is a good idea.
- A 2023 Harvard study found a 25 % improvement in outcomes.

4. Which example shows circular reasoning?

- We should recycle because it reduces landfill waste and saves energy.
- We should recycle because recycling is a good thing to do.
- We should recycle because studies show it cuts carbon emissions by 30 %.

5. What is the difference between a reason and evidence?

- There is no real difference; they mean the same thing.
- A reason is a logical "why" statement; evidence is a specific fact or data that proves it.
- Evidence is the main claim; the reason is just an extra detail.

6. An argument that uses only a personal story as proof is called...

- Statistical evidence
- Anecdotal evidence
- Expert opinion

7. Which statement is a claim (not a fact)?

- The Earth orbits the Sun once every 365 days.
- Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius at sea level.
- Students learn better when class sizes are smaller.

8. A complete argument requires...

- A claim, at least one reason, and supporting evidence
- A claim and a personal story
- A reason and a conclusion, but no evidence needed

“Flip the page upside down to see the answer key “

1. b 2. b 3. c 4. b 5. b 6. b 7. c 8. a

ASSESSMENT

PARENT / TEACHER CHECKLIST

- Can define claim, reason, and evidence in own words
- Can identify each component in a sample argumentative paragraph
- Can sort statements correctly into Claim, Reason, and Evidence categories
- Can distinguish strong (cited, specific) evidence from weak (anecdotal, vague) evidence
- Can explain why circular reasoning weakens an argument