

Building Your Argument

→ What is your claim?

A claim is your stance, or how you feel, about a certain topic. For example, "Students should not be required to take a physical education class."

Write your claim: _____

How strong is your claim? Did you eliminate "I feel" or "I think"? Make sure you write a precise claim because the rest of your paper relies on it.

→ Top 3 Reasons to Support Your Claim

After you have your claim, write your top three reasons to support it. These reasons will make up the "muscle" of your claim.

To come up with your reasons, just state your claim and add "because" and three reasons to the end of it.



(Rewrite your claim here, adding the three reasons):

because (1st reason) _____

(2nd reason) _____, and

(3rd reason) _____

For example: "Students should not be required to take a physical education class because it does not count toward their grade point average, it is not considered a class for college admissions, and it limits students from taking additional classes they may need or want."

Look at your three reasons. Are they three different reasons? Are they strong enough to support an entire paragraph on their own? Do you think you can support EACH one with facts?

If you need to revise your reasons or claim, do so now while you have time.

Once you have your claim and reasons, you can start researching facts and data to support it. Make sure to write down the sources you find!