

Argumentative Writing

Attempts to prove that the **author's claim** is true and to convince the reader to adopt the same viewpoint as the writer.

Author's Claim – The author's thesis or assertion (what the author is trying to prove).

Author's Argument - a series of related statements which represent an attempt to support the author's claim.

Components of a Strong Argument

- ❖ Clearly Stated Claim
- ❖ Distinguished Counter Claim (7th and 8th only)
- ❖ Facts and Evidence Supporting the Claim
- ❖ Facts and Evidence Supporting the Counter Claim (8th only)
- ❖ Conclusion Supporting the Claim

Characteristics of a Strong Argument

- ❖ Strategically Organized
- ❖ Formal Style
- ❖ Precise Word Choices
- ❖ Standard Conventions

Common Misconceptions

- Students think that an argument is a fight.
- Students just think in black or white without acknowledging the nuances of the argument.
- Students think an argument is just an opinion.
- Students think an argument should be five paragraphs.