

# Argument



**GRACE**  
ACE & WRITING CENTER

## **ARGUMENT: EXPRESSING A POINT OF VIEW ON A SUBJECT AND SUPPORTING IT WITH EVIDENCE.**

You will be called to make an argument in almost all of your academic writing. The most important aspects of argument will be discussed in this handout:

- Making a claim
- Evidence
- Counterargument
- Critical reading

### **What it is:**

A measured and logical analysis of information and persuasion to your point of view.

### **What it is not:**

A dumping of all the information you can find that proves you're right.

## **MAKING A CLAIM**

You make a claim by writing a thesis statement, which articulates your perspective on your topic, and briefly explains what kind of evidence you will be introducing to support your claim.

Ask yourself, "What's my point?"

## **EVIDENCE**

Organize your evidence so that it follows and fits with your argument.

Make sure the evidence you find comes from an authoritative source.

## **COUNTERARGUMENT**

Anticipating, discussing, and refuting the opposing viewpoint is a convincing way to show your professor that you understand the material you've researched, and the evidence you've found outweighs that of the opposing viewpoint—or at least is more convincing.

## **CRITICAL READING**

When doing your research, understand that every author is trying to persuade you with arguments to their point of view. Take notes, ask questions, evaluate what kind of proof they offer, and determine if these proofs will shore up your perspective or weaken it. If they support the opposing viewpoint, consider methods to refute their arguments.

Works consulted: [The Writing Center at the University of North Carolina](#)