

Argumentative Claim Checklist

The ability to construct a clear argument is an important skill in academic, professional, and social settings. Students who have received explicit instruction in forming a solid argumentative claim can use this three-part checklist to ensure that their argument is clear, focused, debatable, and a strong foundation for a longer essay.

Additional Resource

For more information on explicit instruction around constructing clear arguments, read the Iowa Reading Research Center blog post [“Effective Literacy Lessons: Constructing an Argumentative Claim”](#) by Leah Zimmerman, Ph.D.

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The argumentative claim is the foundation for an argumentative essay. It introduces the reader to the main argument you will be making about a topic or issue. Later in the essay, you will continue to build your argument by providing reasons and textual evidence. A strong argumentative claim is debatable, focused, and clear. Use this checklist to ensure that your argumentative claim is a strong foundation for the rest of your essay.

Is my claim...

Debatable?

Is it possible for two people to disagree about my claim?

Focused?

Is this claim about a specific part of the topic, such as a specific setting or group of people related to the topic?

Clear?

Will the reader of my essay know exactly what I am going to write about after reading my claim?