

Claim: The main argument (thesis) of an essay. The four main qualifications are as follows:

- 1) Guides. Make sure *all* aspects of the paper/argument are covered by this statement
- 2) Arguable. Matters of opinion (e.g. "Pepsi is better than Coke") or easily defensible positions (we landed on the moon) aren't arguable.
- 3) Specific and Focused. A better claim than "students should graduate from high school" reads "The benefits of a high school diploma far outweigh the costs."
- 4) Interesting and Unique. Try to form claims that engage your audience and haven't been argued before.

My Claim:

Reason An clear statement that will be defended.	Evidence/Data The facts or evidence used to prove the argument	Warrant The logical statements that serve as bridges between the claim and the data; they explain how the data helps prove the reason and claim.	Backing Statements that serve to support the warrants. Explain more how your logic is valid.	Counter-argument Counter-arguments or statements indicating circumstances when the general argument does not hold true.	Response to the counter-argument/Rebuttal A response to the counterargument. Many times leads to more evidence or warranting