# CLAIMS, REASONS, & EVIDENCE
### ARGUMENT      LOGICAL SUPPORT         PROOF

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A claim is your **ARGUMENT.** Claims are statements of belief that can be argued against. For instance, here is a claim:

> *Bob should be elected class president.*

Why is this a claim? Because <u>it is arguable</u> – someone can disagree with it.

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A resaon is your **LOGICAL SUPPORT**. Reasons are statements of logic that support your statement or belief (i.e. your claim). For instance, here is a reason:

> Bob should be elected class president *because he's a natural leader.*

Why is this a reason? Because it logically <u>supports the claim and it makes the claim stronger</u> – more difficult to disagree with.

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Evidence is your **PROOF.** <u>Evidence comes from sources, fieldwork, and research. It proves that your logical support (i.e. your reasons) is valid support for your statement or belief</u> (i.e. your claim). For instance, here is some evidence:

> Bob should be elected class president because he's a natural leader. *When we got lost in the Smoky Mountains on our class trip, Bob took control and navigated us back to civilization.*

Why is this evidence? Because it proves the reason (i.e. Bob is a "natural leader") that supports the claim (i.e. "Bob should be elected class president"), and it makes the claim even more difficult for someone to disagree with.

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Ask these questions about **CLAIMS**:
- is it arguable?
- is it obvious?
- is there a bias?
- is there a specific agenda the writer is working towards?
- is the claim general?

Ask these questions about **REASONS**:
- is it logical?
- is it connected/ related?
- is it a consequence of sound thinking?
- is it fair minded & not biased?
- is it tangible ( it isn't purely conceptual & requiring the reader to assume certain knowledge they do not have)?
- is it reasonable?
- is it in support of the claim?

Ask these questions about **EVIDENCE**:
- is it relevant?
- is it convincing?
- is it specific?
- is it general?
- is it connected to the reason?