



## Elements of Argumentative Writing

**Claim**—This is the main argument of the essay. It might also be called a thesis or thesis statement.

**Reasons**—These are the ideas that support the claim. In a traditional essay, there are at least three but this varies based upon grade level and complexity of the argument writing.

**Evidence**—These are the specific details in the argument writing. If students are conducting research, this is where the expert opinions would be included. If students are referencing data, it would be written here. If students are including examples, it would be included here. Any appeals a student used would be evident here.

**Counterclaim**—This is the other side of the issue. Addressing a counterclaim makes the student's argument writing stronger.