

Step 1

Identify premise, counter premise, evidence, claims, counterclaim and conclusions etc in the argument

Basic Definitions

An argument is a group of statements including one or more premises and one and only one conclusion.

A statement is a sentence that is either true or false, such as "The cat is on the mat." Many sentences are not statements, such as "Close the door, please" , "How old are you?"

A premise is a statement in an argument that provides reason or support for the conclusion. There can be one or many premises in a single argument.

A conclusion is a statement in an argument that indicates of what the arguer is trying to convince the reader/listener. What is the argument trying to prove? There can be only one conclusion in a single argument.

Claims

Claims are ***not facts but rather conclusions*** that the writer draws from facts.

Two key criteria for claims

1. claims really do convey your interpretation and are not simply statement of fact
2. claims can be supported with specific evidence

Types of claims

Claims typically fall into one of four categories

Claims of fact or definition: These claims argue about what the definition of something is or whether something is a settled fact. Example:

What some people refer to as global warming is actually nothing more than normal, long-term cycles of climate change.

Claims of cause and effect: These claims argue that one person, thing, or event caused another thing or event to occur. Example:

The popularity of SUV's in America has caused pollution to increase.

Claims about value: These are claims made of what something is worth, whether we value it or not, how we would rate or categorize something. Example:

Global warming is the most pressing challenge facing the world today.

Claims about solutions or policies: These are claims that argue for or against a certain solution or policy approach to a problem. Example:

Instead of drilling for oil in Alaska we should be focusing on ways to reduce oil consumption, such as researching renewable energy sources.

Counterclaims

But there are two sides to every argument. In your argument for a new cell phone, your Mom stands on the other side. She has something to say against your claim that you need a new cell phone, and it goes something like, 'No, you don't.'

That's your mom's counterclaim. A counterclaim is just the opposite of a claim. In a more formal way, she might say, 'Your current situation does not require a new cell phone.' Counterclaims are also provable and supportable by reasons and evidence. Not just, 'Because I said so.' When you're planning an argument, you need to know what the counterclaim might be so that you can make sure that you disprove it with your reasons and evidence.

Evidence

Evidence is also referred to as support or facts. Evidence is just that: facts. **Unlike claims, facts are indisputable.** You may have heard the redundant phrase "true facts." The phrase is redundant because all facts are true: that's what makes them facts.

All good arguments must be supported by a strong foundation of facts.

Warrants

Simply put, a warrant is the **logical connection between a claim and a supporting fact**. Sometimes, the logical connection, the way in which a fact logically supports a claim, will be clear, possibly so clear that no explanation from the writer is needed. More often, though, the writer needs to supply the warrant; in other words, the writer needs to explain how and why a particular piece of evidence is good support for a specific claim

Step 2

Eliminate the answer choices quickly depending on identification of the argument structure

Step 3

Generally these types of Questions have 2-5 split and hence it is very important to check each of two contenders with our generic analysis.

Pick correct choice.

That's it.

Hope it helps!