

G7 Playlist: Acknowledge Alternate or Opposing Claims

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.7.1.A:

- Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.

Welcome

Over the course of history, persuasive texts have changed the outcomes of wars, the treatment of diseases, and even the direction of science and technology. For example, an early catalyst for the atomic bomb being dropped in Hiroshima in 1945 was a letter from physicist Albert Einstein to President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939. Although persuasive arguments can have powerful consequences, writers do not blindly argue their points of view. Rather, they consider many sides of an issue and even acknowledge the arguments of those who oppose them. Even Einstein expressed limitations of his idea in his letter to President Roosevelt. Because persuasive writing can have a big impact on major and minor issues, it is important that writers who wish to create change be skilled in the ability to introduce claims, organize evidence, and acknowledge differing viewpoints.

Watch!

The following video covers the main elements of an argumentative essay, including claims, evidence, opposition, and a call to action:

<https://www.sophia.org/tutorials/argumentative-papers-key-elements?pathway=ccss-ela-standard-w61a>

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- introduce claim(s) and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- acknowledge alternate or opposing claims.

Review

Key Terms

- A **claim** is a statement that clearly expresses a writer's opinion or perspective about an idea or topic. It is typically one sentence long and appears at the beginning of an argument. It contains a clear, specific, debatable idea that requires support and evidence.
- **Evidence** is information that validates or supports the writer's claim. Evidence can consist of statistics, facts, examples, quotations, research, and testimonials. It is important that evidence come from reliable and credible sources.



Exploring the Standard

A Closer Look: Introducing Claims and Organizing Evidence Logically

When making an argument, it is important to write clear claims and present evidence to support those claims. It is also important to organize the claims and evidence in a way that allows readers to follow along. In order to understand how to introduce claims and organize the reasons and evidence clearly, one must look at examples first and then practice by writing an argument.

Read!

The following article identifies why it is important to use reliable evidence and what kind of evidence can be used:

<http://writingcommons.org/index.php/open-text/collaboration/170-common-comments/supporting-sources/645-provide-additional-support-for-this-point>

Read!

The following resource covers the types of evidence in an argumentative essay:

<https://valenciacollege.edu/wp/cssc/documents/TypesofEvidenceinPersuasiveFINAL.pdf>

Read the following excerpt from a student's persuasive essay on the cost of college tuition. What are the claims in the excerpt? How does the student use evidence to support the claims?

Example 1

¹Because the cost of a college education can prevent students from enrolling in college after high school, college should be free and available to anyone who wants to attend. This point of view goes as far back as 1785. In a letter to John Jebb, a peer in England, John Adams wrote, "The whole people must take upon themselves the education of the whole people, and must be willing to bear the expense of it." In other words, the students and their families should not pay for college. Rather, everyone should share its cost.

²Although ideas and policies about education have changed over time, data from 2004 show that society benefits when students attend and graduate from college. For the individual college graduate, education can increase his or her earnings by a million dollars over the course of a lifetime. People with college degrees also have a positive impact on their neighborhoods and communities. For example, communities that have more college graduates tend to also have higher rates of volunteer work and blood donation. As a result, society is also bettered.

