

What is Argument Structure?

Worksheet

Argument structure organizes a claim (assertion), evidence (support), and reasoning (explanation of how evidence supports the claim). Effective arguments also acknowledge opposing views and address logical fallacies.

Questions

1. Which part of an argument answers 'Why does this evidence matter?'
 - A) Claim
 - B) Evidence
 - C) Reasoning
 - D) Counterargument
2. 'Everyone is buying electric cars, so they must be good.' This is a logical fallacy called...
 - A) Ad hominem
 - B) Appeal to popularity
 - C) False cause
 - D) Straw man
3. Which strengthens an argument MOST?
 - A) Ignoring opposing views
 - B) Using anecdotal evidence only
 - C) Acknowledging and refuting counterarguments
 - D) Repetition
4. A claim is debatable if...
 - A) Everyone agrees with it
 - B) It can be proven with evidence
 - C) It is obviously true
 - D) It's an opinion
5. A student claims 'School uniforms improve academic performance.' What evidence and reasoning would strengthen this claim?
6. Identify the logical fallacy: 'Everyone believes climate change is real, so it must be true.'
7. Why is 'Social media is bad because my friend quit Instagram' a weak argument?
8. Define: What is a claim in an argument?
9. Define: What types of evidence are strongest?
10. Define: What is reasoning in an argument?

Answer Key

1. C) Reasoning — Reasoning explains the logical link between evidence and your claim.
2. B) Appeal to popularity — Appeal to popularity (argumentum ad populum)—popular doesn't mean right.
3. C) Acknowledging and refuting counterarguments — Addressing objections shows depth and increases your credibility.
4. B) It can be proven with evidence — Debatable means provable with evidence—not universal fact, not mere opinion.
5. Claim: 'School uniforms improve academic performance.' Evidence: '72% of schools with uniforms report higher average test scores (research study)' Reasoning: 'Uniforms reduce distractions, allow students to focus on learning, and create a professional mindset.' This structure builds a complete argument.
6. Fallacy: Appeal to authority/popularity — 'everyone believes it' doesn't prove it's true. Correct reasoning: 'Climate change is real because peer-reviewed studies show rising global temperatures, ice melt, and altered ecosystems.' Evidence and scientific method matter, not opinion count.
7. This argument lacks scope and evidence. One anecdote $\neq$ general truth. Stronger: 'Social media can harm mental health because research shows links to anxiety and depression in heavy users (evidence).' Now it uses broader, research-backed support.
8. A clear, debatable assertion that you try to prove—the central idea of your argument.
9. Statistics, peer-reviewed research, expert quotes, and verifiable examples. Avoid anecdotes alone.
10. The explicit explanation of how your evidence supports your claim—the logical bridge.

Bounlu

All cards, step-by-step solutions and an AI tutor are in the Notek app.
Promy turns exam dates into automatic reminders.