




## Anatomy of an Opinion, Argument, or Critique

<p>OPINION/CLAIM/THESIS</p> <p>Attempts to answer a question, respond to a conjecture (Is this true? Do we need . . . ?)</p>	<p>The Question:</p> <p>My Opinion/Thesis/Claim:</p>		
<p>CONTEXT/GROUNDS: Why is this claim true or believable?</p>	<p>Stated:</p> <p>Implied?</p>		
<p>KEY REASONS or criteria used in support of claim (e.g., for stated conjecture, judgment, or policy impact). These are <u>broad</u> categories, supported by facts, evidence, and analysis or justification.</p>	<p>Reason 1/Criterion 1</p>	<p>Reason 2/Criterion 2</p>	<p>Reason 3/Criterion 3</p>
<p>RELEVANT EVIDENCE:</p> <p>Backing—support using “hard evidence”</p> <p>—available facts, quotes, examples, data, observations, anecdotes, analyses of others—surveys/studies + evidence + <u>SOURCE</u></p>			
<p>+ CLEAR REASONING:</p> <p>Analysis and elaboration of each set of evidence under the criterion, <i>providing justification</i> for the thesis or claim</p>	<p>How do facts or data illustrate relevant support for claim?</p>	<p>How do facts or data illustrate relevant support for claim?</p>	<p>How do facts or data illustrate relevant support for claim?</p>
<p>QUALIFIERS or COUNTER-CLAIMS</p> <p>Evidence + <u>SOURCE</u></p>	<p>Exceptions, conditions, counterclaims—Who might disagree and why? When might this not be true?</p>		
<p>CONCLUSIONS/ CONNECTIONS:</p> <p>summarize, connect, extend, suggest consequences or new questions, or call to action</p>	<p>What is your main message? What have you learned or confirmed? What new questions might be raised? Can you make connections?</p>		

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