

Talkback Guide for Argument

Does the argument report the data?

The data and evidence presented are . . .

Are qualifiers or reservations listed?

The reservations to the argument are . . .

Are the data persuasive? Is more information needed to establish the data? (An argument can't be advanced unless the audience accepts the data as compelling.)

The information is persuasive/unpersuasive or sufficient/insufficient because . . .

Has the arguer considered all of the objections that the audience can make against the claim? Have the reservations been adequately responded to?

The reservations are adequately/inadequately addressed by . . .

Are the warrants/reasoning cited?

The data are linked to the claim by these warrants/reasoning and explanations . . .

Is the claim cited?

What is it you should believe or do? What is it you lack? What threatens you? What is your need?

The claim is clearly stated as . . . /is implied to be . . .

Are the warrants clear? Does the warrant justify the leap to the conclusion?

The warrants/reasoning are clear and convincing/unclear and unconvincing because . . .

Is the argument convincing, and is the reason why explained? What worked and did not work for you as a reader? Where was the author convincing and not convincing? What will you do or think in the future as a result of this argument?

I was convinced/unconvinced by the argument because . . . and this argument will inform my thinking and action in the future by . . .

Is the backing for warrants cited, if necessary?

The backing for the warrants is/are . . .

Does the backing support with specifics the truth or acceptability of the warrant?

The warrants are shown to be true in the form of backing that . . .