

Writing A Claim: Dogs are better pets than cats because ...

A claim is an arguable position. For example, someone might argue that *dogs make better pets than cats*. Not everyone will agree. A claim contains both the arguable position along with the main reasons. Typically, the main reasons follow the word *because*. For example, the claim might be:

Dogs make better pets because they are more loyal than cats, they provide protection, and they encourage their owners to exercise.

Notice that the claim not only contains the arguable position but the reasons for this claim, as well. In looking at the claim above, we could expect the author of an argumentative essay to develop three reasons in the essay body paragraph. The first body paragraph would support the reason that *dogs are more loyal than cats*. The second paragraph would be centered around the idea that *dogs provide protection* in ways that cats can't. The third body paragraph would be focused on the idea that *walking a dog helps an owner exercise*.

Step 1: Fix Your Claim:

Look at the claim you wrote for your formative writing assessment. Did it meet the above criteria for a claim? Did it clearly spell out three reasons you would develop in body paragraphs, had you written an entire paper? If your claim needs work, fix it. Rewrite your claim below:

Step 2: Practice Writing Reasons for a Claim on Immigration

We've discussed and debated the issue of illegal immigration. Write a clear claim and be sure to identify three reasons in the claim. The stem of the claim relates back to the issue we debated.

If you support a path to citizenship or legalization your claim may begin with:

Immigrants who are in the country illegally should be allowed to remain in the US because

If you oppose a path to citizenship or legalization your claim may begin with:

Immigrants who are in the country illegally should not be allowed to remain in the US because

Step 3: Write A Clear Claim for Your Research Paper

Use the area below to write a clear claim for your research paper. Be sure to clearly spell out the three reasons you will be developing in your research paper. If you can't spell out three reasons, go back and do more research until you can:
