



Supporting an Argument

Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM - 8:30 PM M-Th,
8:30 AM- 4:30 PM F, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM S-S
Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu
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Definition: When presenting an argument, it is important that you can adequately support that argument by presenting a claim, evidence, reasoning, and backing.

Claim: This is your overall argument. Make a clear statement expressing your opinion as if it is the absolute truth.

Examples:

- Thundergun is the greatest movie ever made.
- Wendy's is a terrible restaurant.
- The newest Iphone is far superior to any that have come before it.
- OSU-OKC is a fantastic place to study nursing.

Evidence: This is what you will use to directly support your claim. It is important for your evidence that you cite and quotes you may use in APA or MLA format. Here are some quick examples:

APA:

According to Hackney (2023), "The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind" (p. 42).

"The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind" (Hackney, 2023, p. 42).

MLA:

According to Hackney, "The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind" (42).

"The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind" (Hackney 42).



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Reasoning: The reasoning is the criterion you will use to describe why your argument is correct. It is often the “because” part of your argument.

Thundergun is the best movie ever because it is funny.

↑
(Claim)

↑
(Warrant)

Backing: The backing explains *why* the reasoning is a good reason that fully supports the claim.

It is important for a movie to be truly great that it is funny because comedy brings people joy, and almost everyone likes feeling joy.

Practice: Build an Argument

Claim: _____

Evidence: _____

Reasoning: _____

Backing: _____