Argument

- According to *The Language of Composition*, argument is “a process of reasoned inquiry” or “a persuasive discourse resulting in a coherent and considered movement from a claim to a conclusion” (1142).
Learning Goal

• I will be able to identify and explain the claims and evidence in an argument.
Claims and Evidence

• Writers convey their positions through one or more claims that require a defense.
  • Claims of fact
  • Claims of value
  • Claims of policy

• Effective claims provoke interest and require a defense rather than simply stating an obvious known fact that requires no defense or justification.

• Writers defend their claims with evidence and/or reasoning.
Arguable Claim or Verifiable Statement?

• SUV owners should be required to pay an energy surcharge.
• Charter schools are an alternative to public schools.
• Requiring students to wear uniforms improves school spirit.
• Students graduating from college today can expect to have more debt than any previous generation.
• People who read novels are more likely to attend sports events and movies than those who do not.
• Print newspapers will not survive another decade.
• The competition among countries to become a site for the Olympic Games is fierce.
• Plagiarism is a serious problem in today’s schools.
Types of evidence may include:

• Facts
• Anecdotes – short personal stories
• Analogies – comparing one thing to another
• Statistics
• Examples
• Details
• Illustrations
• Expert opinions
• Personal observations
• Testimonies
• Experiments