

position · claim · argument · controlling idea ·

Writing a claim tests your ability to distill your idea into one to two sentences.

Claim Must . . .

1. Express one main idea
2. Take a strong stand and clearly show your point of view
3. Use specific language—no vague words (ex. something, a lot)
4. Use concise language—eliminate wordiness, but not too brief
5. Be a statement that can be supported with legitimate research
6. Be debatable

→ convince audience w/ a solid argument, sound reasoning, & supporting evidence!

Claim Includes . . .

2 Parts = Claim + Reason why (embedded support) !!!

Ex. Regardless of the crime, the death penalty is an unacceptable form of retribution for an offense, because it is a cruel and unusual punishment.

Why!

Claim!

Words to Avoid:

- I think
- I believe
- I feel
- In this essay, I will prove
- Contractions: cannot instead of can't
- Slang: gonna
- Informal wording: cool, ok, a lot...
- Using second person excessively: Being an American means that you are chill.
- Vague: thing, something, someone, somewhere...



→ Add to your list during the NoRed Ink Practice.

More Vague words to avoid:

CLAIM must be...

- ✓ Opinion vs. Fact
- ✓ Controversial vs. Noncontroversial
- ✓ Specific vs. vague
- ✓ Concise vs. wordy

➤ Requirements!

Drafting Your Claim

Step 1
Brainstorm Topic
Drug dependent babies

Step 2
Narrow Topic
Programs for drug dependent babies

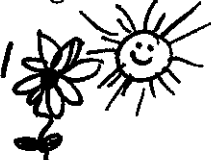
Step 3
Take a Position on the Topic
More attention should be paid to the environment that drug-dependent babies grow up in.

Step 4
Use Specific Language
Experts estimate that half of drug-dependent babies will grow up in home environments lacking rich cognitive and emotional stimulation.

Make a debatable, controversial, concise, specific CLAIM

Because half of all drug-dependent babies are likely to grow up in homes lacking rich cognitive and emotional stimulation, the federal government should finance programs to supplement parental care for these children so that they can grow and thrive.

= 2 Part Claim!

Beautiful! 

Vague:
How? To what extent?

vague:
what environment?

(Specific, but lacks a claim)

CLAIM Sentence Stems:

* use one of these options to write your claim!
→ Your Welcome 😊

1. The greatest freedom given to the American people by the Bills of rights and the framers of the Constitution is... because...; thus, _____ is the most important Amendment.
2. Being an American means...; therefore, the _____ Amendment in the Bill of Rights must be protected and upheld above all other amendments.
3. The foundation of the United States is rooted in...; consequently, the _____ Amendment in the Bill of Rights needs to...
4. The Amendments to the constitution are vast and varied, but the one Amendment in the Bill of Rights that is the most vital to the United States is... because...
5. In the Bill of Rights, the _____ Amendment is taken for granted, and ironically it is the most vital right of... since...

Put Awesome Claim HERE!
↓ ↓ ↓

Draft of Claim:

Yes, this is homework! Good Luck!
(a.k.a. to be done @ home)