**Part C: Making a Claim**

Objectives for today:

* Answer your research question and formulate your claim.
* Begin developing an argument by identifying supporting reasons, counterarguments, and rebuttals.
* Read through your research notes and choose which quotes work best as evidence.

**Step 1: Revisit your focus question.**

After carefully researching your topic using 4 different sources, you should be able to answer your focus question. Your answer becomes the claim (thesis) that you will argue in your paper.

**Main Claim** *(your argument)*:

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**Step 2: Consider the counterargument.**

In order to show that you are balanced and thoughtful, you need to demonstrate that you have considered multiple viewpoints on an issue. Identify the most important counterclaim to your argument.

**Counterclaim** *(the other side of the argument)*:

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**Step 3: Plan your rebuttal.**

To show the superiority of your claim, you will need to effectively offer a rebuttal to the counterargument. How will you deal with the counterargument?

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**Step 4: Compose your thesis.**

You will build a thesis for this paper by combining a clear statement of your own claim with an acknowledgement or concession of the strongest counterclaim.

Examples:

* Although some people think that \_\_\_[counterclaim]\_\_\_, in reality \_\_\_[claim]\_\_\_.
* \_\_\_\_\_[Claim]\_\_\_\_ is clearly the right choice despite understandable concerns about \_\_[counterclaim]\_\_.
* It is true that \_\_\_\_\_[counterclaim]\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ; however, \_\_\_\_\_[claim]\_\_\_\_.

**Thesis** *(your main claim + an acknowledgement of the counterclaim):*

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**Step 5: Develop your argument.**

You develop an argument by providing reasons for your claim. In the space below, identify three reasons why your claim is valid. Remember, in order to create a logical argument that will appeal to reasonable people, your reasons should be logically sound.

**Supporting Reasons**:

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**Step 6: Use your research notes to continue development.**

Now that you have the “bones” of your argument assembled, you need to start “fleshing it out.”

**Supporting Evidence:**

What quote or quotes from your research will help you support your claim?