

Craft of Research by Colomb, Williams, &  
Booth[1]  
Argument Creation

James G. Wright

August 31, 2022

*I write to Remember, Understand, & Test my Thinking*



Claim **because of** reason **based on** evidence

## 1 Claim

The solution to your research question. They are backed up with reason and evidence.

The principle questions for any claim are

What kind of claim should I make?	
Is the claim specific?	
Will my readers think it is significant enough to need an argument supporting it?	

### 1.1 Conceptual claim

Does a thing exist?	
How should we characterise it?	
How did it get this way?	
Moral judgement?	
What can/should be done about it?	

### 1.2 Practical claims

Why your solution is feasible?	
Why it costs less?	
Why it will not create a bigger problem?	
Why it is faster/cheaper?	

### 1.3 Evaluation

Is my claim...	
Specific?	
Is the logic explicit?	
Acknowledge the views of critics?	
Significant? (test by reversing the claim)	
Acknowledge limiting conditions	
Use hedges to limit certainty	

## 2 Reason

An assertion that supports the claim

## 3 Evidence

Data deployed to support a reason

## 4 Acknowledge and Response

What critiques will my claim have ahead of time?

## 5 Warrant

Reference general principles that link a particular claim and reason together. A general circumstance predictably leads to a general circumstance. The general circumstance implies a specific circumstance. The specific circumstance lets us infer the specific consequence. Warrants are used to justify the linking of claim and reason, or explain a fields way of reasoning.

## References

- [1] W.C. Booth, G.G. Colomb, and J.M. Williams. *The Craft of Research, Third Edition*. Chicago Guides to Writing, Editing, and Publishing. University of Chicago Press, 2009.