

A Claim: What It Isn't—and What It Is

What It Isn't

- » **A Topic:** A topic is where you begin. Your topic inspires your claim.
 - energy drinks
 - social networking
 - homework
- » **A Question:** Questions are important to ask yourself when you're brainstorming a topic and claim. But a question is not a claim.
 - Are energy drinks good or bad for you?
 - Does social networking hinder social relationships?
 - Does homework do any good or is it a waste of time?
- » **A Statement of Purpose:** Knowing your purpose for writing the paper is critical to getting your point across. But your purpose is not a claim.
 - The purpose of my paper is to show that energy drinks are not a healthy choice.
 - The purpose of my paper is to prove that social networking improves social relationships.
 - The purpose of my paper is to convince you that homework should be abolished.

What It Is

- » **A Controversial or Debatable Statement Inspired by Your Topic**
 - Energy drinks are not a healthy beverage choice.
 - Social networking improves social relationships.
 - Homework should be abolished.

The claim for my argumentative research paper is:

To determine if your claim is strong, ask yourself:

- *Does my claim invite at least two points of view?*
- *Can it be backed up with information from a variety of sources?*
- *Have I focused my claim on one specific idea?*
- *Do I express a strong opinion?*

