

Claims: Definition and General Types

*A **claim** is an assertion about a reality.*

(“To assert” is to put forth for consideration, examination.)

4 General Types

major	the ‘largest’ or most important claims the thesis in the discourse the main point(s), central argument(s)
minor	support, develop the major claims sub-claims topic sentences often function as minor claims
explicit	actually stated or written consciously recognized by the arguer and the audience
implicit	not stated or written expressed indirectly by the arguer (consciously or not) inferred by the audience (consciously or not) often more powerful—and potentially problematic— than explicit claims

Argument is the use of symbols, like language, to affect thinking and/or actions.