

Aristotle on *Pisteis*

- A *pistis* is a “proof,” an element that serves as a support for or a demonstration of a claim.
- singular is *pistis*
- plural is *pisteis*



Two Categories, Generally:

1. “Artistic” or “Entechnic” or Proofs:

Greek word is “*entekhnikē*.”

These originate from the speaker/writer.

They are drawn from, arise out of the writer’s experience.

Two Categories, Generally:

2. “Inartistic” or “Atechnic” Proofs:

Greek word is “*atekhnikē*.”

These originate from outside sources:
The arguer has not necessarily
experienced these pisteis first-hand.

Ex: witness testimony, contracts, articles
in a scholarly journal, Wikipedia, etc.

What Aristotle Probably Said

“Of the *pisteis*, some are atechnic, some entechnic. I call atechnic those that are not provided by us but are preexisting: for example, witnesses, testimony of slaves under torture, contracts, and such like; and artistic whatever can be prepared by method and by us; thus, one must use the former [atechnic or inartistic] and invent the latter [entechnic or artistic].”

-- from *On Rhetoric*