1. What is an argument?
   1. <<Insert Appropriate Dictionary Definition>>
   2. An argument can be very broad or very narrow.
   3. Consider the standard 5 paragraph essay:
      1. Your thesis is an argument. But your thesis also contains subpoints.
      2. Each subpoint is an argument as well.
      3. Each subpoint also has supporting arguments.
      4. Sometimes, even those supporting arguments have supporting arguments.
   4. In communication studies, an argument has three parts:
      1. Claim.
      2. Data.
      3. Warrant.
2. Claim.
   1. The claim is the conclusion of the argument, i.e. the final step.
3. Data i.e. Evidence.
   1. The data/grounds/evidence are the proof that supports our claim.
   2. Types of evidence.
      1. Primary Sources: Best evidence circumstances admit.
      2. Secondary Sources: Typically cites primary sources.
         1. Ex: Fifth Domain citing G.A.O. report versus actual G.A.O. report.
      3. Lay Evidence: Provided by persons without any special training, knowledge, or experience in subject matter.
      4. Expert Evidence: Provided by persons with special training, knowledge, or experience in subject matter.
      5. Negative Evidence: Absence of evidence that might reasonably be expected to be found were the issue in question true. Should be used carefully.
   3. Tests of evidence.
      1. Is there enough evidence?
      2. Is the evidence clear?
      3. Is the evidence consistent?
      4. Is the evidence verifiable?
      5. Is the source competent?
      6. Is the source unprejudiced?
      7. Is the source reliable?
      8. Is the evidence relevant?
      9. Is the evidence statistically sound?
      10. Is the evidence the most recent available?
4. Warrant.
   1. Warrants are whatever arguments that connect our data/grounds/evidence to the claim.
   2. Warrants often require their own data to support that connection.