James is eligible for the presidency. He was born in Cincinnati, is thirty-eight, and has never been arrested, and any thirty-five-year-old or older non-felon born in the United States is eligible for the presidency.

The claim is the assertion the argument will back up. It is the conclusion of the argument. Here are some claims:

- Cigarette vending machines should be outlawed.
- Cytochrome is important in cell respiration.
- All students should be required to take computer science.
- Arthur killed Daphne in self-defense.

Claims have two parts: the topic and what is asserted about the topic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>ASSERTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cigarette vending machines</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A persuasive essay contains a large claim—the thesis—that the essay as a whole supports. In supporting a thesis, the writer makes smaller claims, generally supported in a paragraph.

A warrant is the glue that holds an argument together. It links the evidence to the claim. It says something like “This evidence supports the claim because…”
CLAIM I think you should join my t’ai chi class.
EVIDENCE T’ai chi clears the mind and brings peace to the soul.
WARRANT As an airline pilot, you need a clear mind and a peaceful soul.

CLAIM Forks were not used in France in the fifteenth century.
EVIDENCE Paintings of banquets from that period show no forks on the tables or people eating with them.
WARRANT Contemporary paintings are very good indications of the customs of an age.

The most popular soap opera on American television is *Wild Wet Winds of Love*. We know that because fully 76 percent of the viewing public in Wadkins, Florida watches this program.

What does this prove? Who cares about some little town in Florida? A warrant is needed:

The viewing public in Wadkins, Florida is a cross section of viewers much like those in the rest of the United States. Thus, a show’s popularity there indicates its popularity throughout the land.

The 1-2-3 Rule

Good writers obey this rule whenever they are about to discuss an important piece of evidence.

1. Establish the context and purpose of the evidence.
2. Present the evidence.
3. Show how the evidence fits into the argument.
TASK: Write two complete claim/evidence/warrant paragraphs that you might use in your own essay on *The Scarlet Letter.*