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**Argumentative/Opinion Writing Terms**

**Claim**: a statement that articulates the main point of your opinion or argument.

**Reasoning**: the “because” part of your opinion or argument; the explanation for why you made the claim.

**Evidence**: Support for your reasoning in your opinion/argument; it’s the “for example” part of your opinion; should be text-based, reasonable, and reliable.

**SENTENCE STARTERS FOR CLAIMS, REASONING, AND EVIDENCE**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| CLAIMS –AND—COUNTER CLAIMS | REASONING | EVIDENCE |
| * The central issue is. . .
* One of the most important/controversial/interesting issues/problems is . . .
* The purpose of this paper is. . .
* This paper describes/analyzes. . .
* This is to show/explain/discuss. . .
* It can be claimed/said. . .
* It is maintained that. . .

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*** Some may argue that. . .
* In contrast. . .
* On the other hand. . .
* One may argue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; however . . .
* Some feel that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; however. . .
 | * This shows…
* This demonstrates…
* This evidence suggests
* This evidence contributes
* This evidence supports
* This evidence confirms
* It is apparent this evidence caused
* Considering this evidence, it can be concluded
* Based on the… it can be argued that
* According to…
* The connection
* Hence,
* This proves…
* This highlights…
* This is important because. . .
* In examining the evidence. . .
* This is significant because. . .
* An example of this is. . .
* This illustrates. . .
 | * For example,
* Another example from the documents,
* According to the documents,
* In documents A it states
* As found on document B,
* As document (author)…states,
* Evidence for this can be seen on …
* …(author) emphasizes
* …(author) states/asserts
* …notes/clarifies/ justifies
* The text says. . .
* The text states. . .
* The evidence suggests. . .
* This can be explained by. . .
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