

Analyzing an Argument

Many of the things we read in this class will make an argument. An argument is a claim based on evidence. When we read documents we should analyze them so that we understand how the argument they are making is constructed. This will allow us to better evaluate the arguments that is being made.

Use the following steps to analyze an article's argument:

1. Read the whole article quickly. What is the most important claim (argument) or claims that the article is making? Write this down.
2. Then re-read the article. Ask yourself "What factual evidence does the article provide for its most important claim" (evidence)? Highlight/underline the supporting evidence and label it.
3. How well does the author explain why the evidence supports the overall claim they are making (analysis). Highlight/circle the analysis on your document and label it