

Quotations



Quotations from eyewitnesses, experts, and officials support claims by adding knowledge, credibility, or first-hand experience.

CLAIM:	PROOF:
There are a variety of small changes that Americans can make to their diet in order to combat the obesity epidemic.	According to Sara Bleich, associate professor at the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, "If we could remove 60 calories from the American diet, it could have a significant impact on reducing the number of excess daily calories and potentially on population obesity."

Expert Opinions



Experts' opinions can strengthen your claim. When you use the knowledge of an expert but do not directly quote them, you still must credit the source.

CLAIM:	PROOF:
Assigning homework has little to no academic benefit until adolescents enter middle school and high school.	Duke psychology professor Harris Cooper maintains that spending 60-90 minutes a night on homework can increase student test scores. However, additional time spent on homework past that 90 minute block does not equate to even higher test scores.

Anecdotes



Anecdotes are personal stories that use experiences to prove a claim. The anecdote doesn't have to be the writer's experience; the writer can report on other's experiences.

CLAIM:	PROOF:
Online bullying is a major issue that is affecting the self-esteem and well-being of social media users who become targets.	A freelance writer named Melissa Blake recently shared the emotional toll that online bullying had on her self-esteem. She sent a Tweet that criticized a politician for calling a woman an insulting slur. Many people responded by sending her Tweets attacking her looks and personal beliefs. Melissa reported that she felt violated and crushed by this reaction. Even though the threats were all digital, the Tweets made her feel unsafe in her daily life.

Statistics



Statistics support claims through numerical data collected through a variety of sources which can include surveys, observations, scientific studies, and government reporting.

CLAIM:	PROOF:
Fishing may seem like a relatively relaxing and easy job, but it is actually one of the deadliest occupations in the United States.	In 2008, the fatality rate for commercial fishermen was 128.9 deaths per 100,000 employees. This rate is higher than the rate for electricians, roofers, truck drivers, and miners.

Examples

Examples prove the claim by offering true details. Examples can also use description to help capture the reader's attention.



CLAIM:	PROOF:
School districts and libraries in America have banned or challenged books when the content is deemed 'inappropriate.'	The beloved literary classic, <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> , continues to be banned in some school districts to this day. The novel deals with difficult topics such as racism, assault, and murder.

Facts



Facts are specific and true events that support the claim

CLAIM:	PROOF:
<p>During World War II, some citizens took a stand against the Nazis by rescuing Jewish people.</p>	<p>Beginning in 1939, Irena Sendler began helping Jewish people in Poland who were targeted by Adolf Hitler. She offered them food and shelter. After Jews were sent to live in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1940, she helped to smuggle approximately 2,500 children out of the ghetto and into safety.</p>

Discussion Sentence Starters

- This shows...
- This fact is proof that...
- This is important because...
- This piece of evidence means...
- This detail highlights...
- It's impressive that...
- This detail/fact is included because...
- This is a valid argument because...
- This is a valid point/detail because...
- In this case...
- This quote shows...
- The author is trying to prove...
- The author is pointing out...
- In other words...
- Ultimately...
- The reason this is important is...