Vocabulary Terms for Argumentative Writing

Argument: Takes a stand and presents evidence that shows the reader that the writer’s position is a valid one

Claim/Thesis: Conclusion arrived at after analyzing evidence for both sides of an issue - must be debatable

Evidence: The support for the claim (data, statistics, observations, expert opinions)

Warrant/Reasoning: Explains how the evidence supports the claim demonstrates the writer’s logic

Counter Claim: The opposing perspective – the writer must refutes the opposing argument with evidence

Fact vs. Opinion: Fact is something true and opinion is something someone believes based on perception

Issue: An important topic or problem for debate or discussion

Valid: Having sound logic – reasonable or cogent

Relevant: Appropriate to the matter at hand

Position/Perspective: The writer’s particular point of view or attitude toward something – a way of regarding something

Textual Evidence: Evidence explicitly found in the text