

**TRUTH AND SIGNIFICANCE IN  
ACADEMIC WRITING  
- THE ART OF ARGUMENTATION-**

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- Academic writing is a mean of communication in an academic setting through which both students and researchers are involved in ongoing scientific debates, communicating, in a written manner, their arguments and research results.
- Important features of AW:
  - Purpose
  - Audience
  - Clarity
  - Unity
  - Coherence



# ACADEMIC WRITING IS A CONVERSATION

Writers are expected to contribute something new to the conversation

- Writers express their ideas in response to the works of others
- Writers use the works of others to support their ideas\*

*\*Graff & Birkenstein, (2010), „They Say, I Say”*



# USING EVIDENCE IN ACADEMIC WRITING

*Evidence plays a key role in writing, especially in argument. In fact, calls for evidence-based arguments have become so common that few have stopped to define what exactly counts as evidence. Most agree that evidence can include direct quotations, paraphrases, and summaries.*

*What counts is HOW the writer uses evidence to support the argument!!*



# TYPES OF EVIDENCE IN AW

## Types of Evidence

- Einstein Proof – coming across information that reveals a note-worthy person or scholar agreeing with the point the author tries to make.
- Case Proof – A case in which the author's opinion is validated and/or the opposing view isn't.
- Fact Proof – Includes statistics and objective information.
- For Example Proof – Includes examples that supports the author's primary claim.

*(Heather Benucci, Using Evidence in Academic Writing: Avoiding Plagiarism)*



# TECHNIQUES TO GIVE EVIDENCE BUT AVOID PLAGIARISM

- Paraphrasing
- Summarizing
- Citation
- References



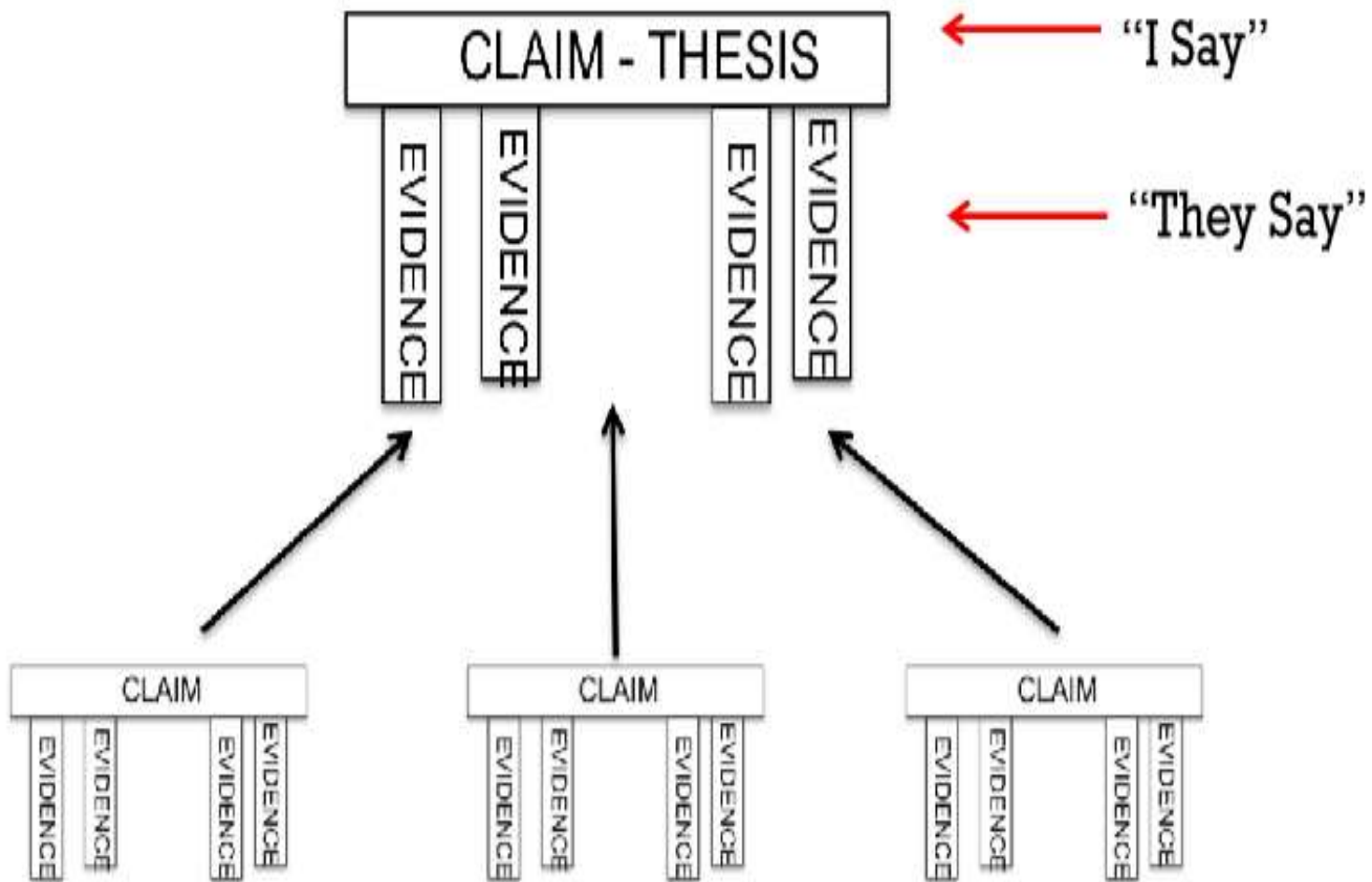
# “TRUTH” IN ACADEMIC WRITING

## Evidence vs. Claim in AW

Claim: a writer’s idea or argument (master claim = thesis)

Evidence: information that supports, refines, or develops a claim







# Using what “They say” as evidence



	A. Summarizing	B. Paraphrasing	C. Quoting
Citations	Must reference the original source (author, year)	Must reference the original source (author, year)	Must reference the original source (author, year, page number)
Text Length	The text produced is much shorter than the original text	The text produced may be shorter or longer than the original text	The text produced is the exact length of the original text
Phrasing	Must use your own words/phrases, usually with a <u>very limited</u> use of quotations.	Must use your own words/phrases  Put quotation marks around any key terms lifted from the original	Use the original author's exact words  Put quotation marks around the original author's exact words

- Main idea
- Broad view

- Single ideas
- Short passages

- Long or short
- EXACT match



# SIGNIFICANCE AND ARGUMENTATION

What is argument?

Arguments are logical conclusions that are derived from facts and their role is to support the chosen thesis, regardless if it is affirmative or negative. Every argument has to *satisfy* certain criteria, in regards to the content that it appears into, as well as the way it is structured.

- Four elements of every argument: claim, explanation, proof and connection. An argument needs to be proven.
- For the sake of support of the arguments, facts, examples, data, etc. can be used to check the truth behind the argument.



## WEB-WIDE DEFINITIONS..

- **argument** - a fact or assertion offered as evidence that something is true; "it was a strong argument that his hypothesis was true"
- **evidence** - an indication that makes something evident; "his trembling was evidence of his fear"
- **proof** - a formal series of statements showing that if one thing is true something else necessarily follows from it

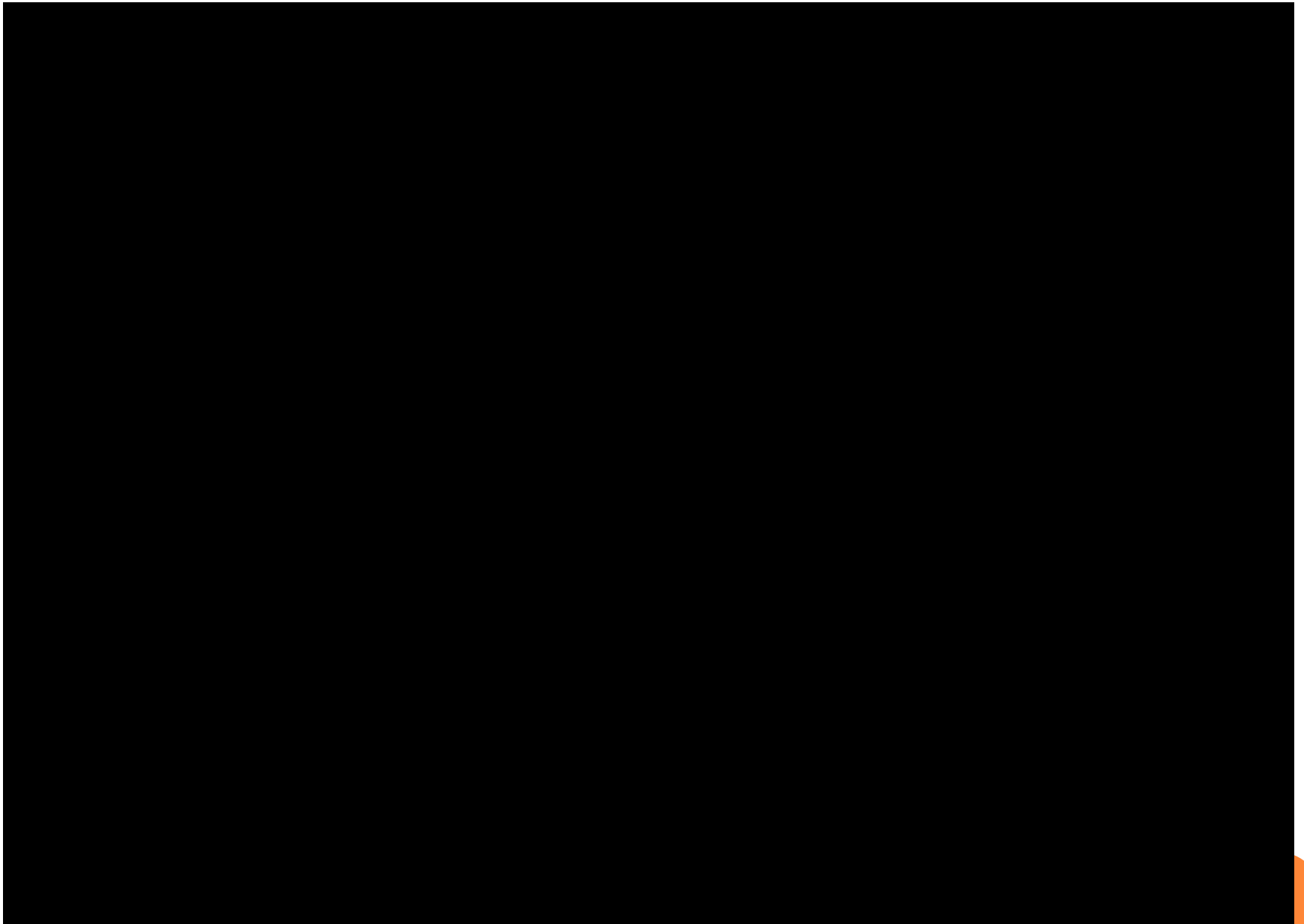
(<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/argument>)



# SYNONYMS OF AN ARGUMENT

- reason, case, reasoning, ground(s), defense, excuse, logic, justification, rationale, polemic, dialectic, line of reasoning, argumentation *There's a strong argument for lowering the price.*
- debate, questioning, claim, row, discussion, dispute, controversy, pleading, plea, contention, assertion, polemic, altercation, remonstrance, expostulation, remonstrations *The issue has caused heated political argument.*
- quarrel, fight, row, clash, dispute, controversy, disagreement, misunderstanding, feud, barney (*informal*), squabble, wrangle, bickering, difference of opinion, tiff, altercation *She got into a heated argument with a stranger.*  
(<http://www.thefreedictionary.com/argument>)





“A Time To Kill” JAKE (defense attorney):

I want to tell you a story. I'm going to ask you all to close your eyes while I tell you the story. I want you to listen to me. I want you to listen to yourselves. Go ahead. Close your eyes, please. This is a story about a little girl walking home from the grocery store one sunny afternoon. I want you to picture this little girl.

Suddenly a truck races up. Two men jump out and grab her. They drag her into a nearby field and they tie her up and they rip her clothes from her body. Now they climb on. First one, then the other, raping her, shattering everything innocent and pure with a vicious thrust in a fog of drunken breath and sweat. And when they're done, after they've killed her tiny womb, murdered any chance for her to have children, to have life beyond her own, they decide to use her for target practice. They start throwing full beer cans at her. They throw them so hard that it tears the flesh all the way to her bones. Then they urinate on her.

Now comes the hanging. They have a rope. They tie a noose. Imagine the noose going tight around her neck and with a sudden blinding jerk she's pulled into the air and her feet and legs go kicking. They don't find the ground. The hanging branch isn't strong enough. It snaps and she falls back to the earth. So they pick her up, throw her in the back of the truck and drive out to Foggy Creek Bridge. Pitch her over the edge. And she drops some thirty feet down to the creek bottom below.

Can you see her? Her raped, beaten, broken body soaked in their urine, soaked in their semen, soaked in her blood, left to die. Can you see her? I want you to picture that little girl.

Now imagine she's white.



- **Theme:** *Abortion*
- **Topic of the essay:** *No to abortion*
- **Main sentence(main idea of the essay):** *Abortion should be banned*
- **Three to five supporting sentences—** *Abortion ban is one of the most controversial issues today, which makes it a popular topic among both scientific and every day audience. Even though there is no agreement in the attitudes and sides, the against-abortion sides seems to be louder. They say that the abortion is an occurrence that has negative implications in the society. This attitude is supported by the fact that...*
- **Argument 1:** *Abortion is pre-mediated murder*
- **Argument 2:** *Abortion decreases the birth rate*
- **Argument 3.** *Abortion is an endangerment of women's health*



- **Theme:** Women earning more money than man
- **Topic of the essay:** *Equal pay for both sexes*
- **Main sentence(main idea of the essay):** *Women should be paid exactly the same as men*
- **Three to five supporting sentences–** *The payment gap has been a controversial issue in many democratic societies as more and more women raise their voice against unfair payment gender-based principles. All employees should gain the same amount of money regardless of their gender. Salary is to be based on performance, and not on gender.*
- **Argument 1:** Payment according to merit
- **Argument 2:** Equal salaries as motivation
- **Argument 3.** Against democratic principles of equality





- **Theme:** Lessons in summer schools should start at 9am
- **Topic of the essay:**
- **Main sentence(main idea of the essay):** Both teachers and *students participating in summer schools are more efficient after 9 am*
- **Three to five supporting sentences**
- **Argument 1:**
- **Argument 2:**
- **Argument 3.**



## DEVELOP THE ARGUMENTS!

- Should students be allowed to have cell phones in elementary and high schools?
- Should students be obliged to wear uniforms at school?
- Should state colleges be free to attend?
- Should marijuana be legal for medicinal purposes?
- Should teachers be required to wear uniforms?



Time for  
exercises!

