

YORKWAC Infobase

Arguing Your Thesis

The word *thesis* comes from ancient Greek and literally means “something you put,” as in, “Let me put it to you this way.” A thesis is *the main idea that you are putting forward in your paper*.

But having a thesis is just a start. Once you have *stated* your thesis, you need to *argue* your thesis. Here are some pointers to help you argue your thesis.

1. What do you mean by *argue*?

An *argument* is a connected series of statements that support your thesis and help convince the reader of your position.

FUN FACT: *position* comes from the Latin word that means the same thing as the Greek word *thesis*—both words mean “putting” or “placing”.

2. What goes into a good argument?

A good argument makes *claims* supported by *evidence* from reliable *sources*, properly *cited*.

- a. A *claim* is a statement of something as a fact or an assertion of something as true.
- b. *Evidence* is the published data or expert opinion that you cite to support your claims.
- c. *Sources* are where your evidence comes from; for example: journal articles, books, statistical databases, and websites.
- d. *Citing* means giving the reader the information needed to track down the original sources. There are a number of different styles available for citing sources.

The **YORKWAC Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment.

If you want more information on crafting your argument, you might want to try:

Infosheet #6, Developing a Thesis Statement

Infosheet #13, Making Claims

Infosheet #14, Using Evidence

Infosheet #15, Types of Sources

Infosheet #16, Citing Sources