

MODULE 2:

LESSON 5: Classical argument and the Counter-claim

An argument is made up of cl_____,
re_____, ev_____ and
c_____

The f_____ of the academic essay of today, the typical 5-
p_____ essay, is based on the format of the cl_____
arg_____. The classical argument goes back to Ancient
Greece in the _____ century B.C. At that time, professional speakers
called “rhetors” taught Greek farmers strategies for appealing their
cases to the Greek courts. Ever since then, the classical argument has
stood as a _____ for writers who believe their case can be
_____ plausibly and _____ to an _____-minded

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audience. This format is still in use in much academic writing today. In its simplest form, the classical argument has five main parts:

1. The _____, which warms up the audience, establishes goodwill and rapport with the readers, and announces the general theme or thesis (also called the _____) of the argument.

2. The narration, which summarizes relevant _____ material and provides any information the audience needs to know. In academic writing, this often takes the form of a literature review.

3. The confirmation, which lays out in a logical order the _____ that support the thesis, providing evidence for each claim.

4. The refutation and concession, which looks at opposing viewpoints to the writer's claims, anticipating _____ from the audience, and allowing as much of the opposing viewpoints as possible without weakening the thesis. Concession is sometimes called the _____

5. The summation or _____, which shows the readers that this solution is the best.

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CLAIM AND COUNTER-CLAIM

A claim should be

1. arg _____ , con _____ , deb _____
2. an _____ - it should include the word “ _____ ”
3. pro _____ . A claim that cannot be proved is, e.g. “Dogs are better pets than cats.”

The following phrases might be used to introduce a counter-claim:

1. The opposing view is (that)....
2. Some people think (that)... / say (that) ...
3. Some (people) / you might object that ...
4. It is true (that) ...
5. Admittedly , ...

(From “I Tried to Become a Morning Person and This Is What Happened”

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<http://nbcnews.to/2tXDDmc> Accessed July 7th, 2017

CLAIM (that it is possible to change your habits)

The internet is full of advice about how to become a morning person, and at this point I may have read all of it: Have a healthy breakfast. Work out in the morning, and lay out all your gym clothes the night before. Drink a glass of water, perhaps with lemon. Start a gratitude journal. Meditate.

COUNTER-CLAIM (that it is not possible to change)

I've also read the counter-arguments — that changing your natural body rhythms is neither possible nor desirable. Some people will wake up at 4:30 to get something accomplished. Others would rather stay up that late to do the same thing, and that's OK. (← CONCESSION).

REFUTATION (even though it may not be possible, I must do something because I live in a “morning-centric world” so the options in the counter-claim are not possible for me).

And yet like most people, I live with constraints: children, an office job and a life in a morning-centric world. So I start by talking to ...