

Research question

The question your argument answers.

Claim

Your position, stated in one clear sentence.

Evidence 1

A specific fact, example, or quotation — plus the source it came from.

Evidence 2

A second, different piece of evidence — plus its source.

Evidence 3

A third piece of evidence, ideally a different KIND (statistic, artifact, expert view) — plus its source.

Reasoning

Why this evidence supports your claim. Connect the dots explicitly.

Counterclaim

The strongest thing someone who disagrees would say.

Response

Where the counterclaim is right, where it falls short, and why your claim still stands.

Conclusion

Restate your claim in new words and say why it matters.

Citing Your Sources

- Museum or encyclopedia page: Institution, "Page title," URL, and the date you accessed it.
- Book: Author, Title (Publisher, year), and the page number if you quote.
- Website article: Author (or organization), "Article title," Site name, date published, URL.
- Every piece of evidence in your essay should be traceable to one of the sources you listed here.