

An Introduction to Claim-Evidence-Warrant (CEW) Paragraphs

Question: What is a claim-evidence-warrant (CEW) paragraph?

Answer:

A claim-evidence-warrant (CEW) paragraph provides a structure for a well-written answer to a question which needs an essay response. A CEW paragraph begins with a claim statement which answers the question. The claim should simply state the answer and not provide any explanation of the answer so the claim statement should not include the word "because" in the sentence. Next, students should include evidence, or a fact, as part of the explanation of the answer given in the claim. For the best score, the evidence should come directly from the documents used with the essay question. Following the evidence, students include a warrant statement. A warrant statement explains how and why the evidence statement answers the essay question. Students may include a number of evidence and warrant statements within the paragraph. For example, a CEWEWEW includes the following statements in this order: claim, evidence, warrant, evidence, warrant, evidence, and warrant.

Choose three highlighter colors:

Color for the Claim statements otherwise known as _____ :

Color for the Evidence statements otherwise known as _____ :

Color for the Warrant statements otherwise known as _____ :

Now, use your selected colors and highlight the different parts of the example paragraph.

How many sentences does a basic CEW paragraph include?

What are the sentences needed for a basic CEW paragraph?

How many sentences are needed for a CEWEW paragraph?

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What are the sentences needed for a basic CEWEWEW paragraph?

How many claim sentences are used in the example paragraph?

How many evidence sentences are used in the example paragraph?

How many warrant sentences are used in the example paragraph?

Then what type of CEW format is used in the example paragraph?

Focus on the Claim statements:

The Claim statement should simply answer the question by restating that question and do nothing else. Therefore, students should not include the word "because" in the claim statement. Look at the example essay question and three possible claim statements that students might use to start a claim-evidence-warrant paragraph to answer the question. Circle the best claim statement and explain why that is the best claim statement.

Possible Essay Question:

You are an employee of a company that has factories in both the United States and Canada. Your boss came to you and asked you to choose in which country you would prefer to live. Choose one country and explain why you would want to move there.

Possible Student written claim statements:

I would choose to live in Canada because I love ice hockey and Canada plays lots of ice hockey.

I would choose to live in the United States.

Because I know the language better and I already live here, I would choose to live in the United States.

Why did you choose that claim sentence as the best claim sentence among the three options?

Now try your own claim statements:

Possible Essay Question:

Given the latest GDP numbers, Monaco has the highest GDP per capita in the world while China has the largest GDP. If given the choice to move to one of these countries, but not both, which country would you choose and why?

Your claim statement (which would be the first sentence in your “pretend” essay about this question):

Possible Essay Question:

England uses a constitutional monarchy for its government while China uses communism for its government. If given the choice to move to one of these countries, but not both, which country would you choose and why?

Your claim statement (which would be the first sentence in your “pretend” essay about this question):
