| **Name:** | **Date:** |

ANALYZE CRAFT AND STRUCTURE ▶ **ARGUMENT**

In an **argument**, the author presents his or her opinion and tries to persuade readers to agree with that opinion or act on it.

An argument is based on a central **claim**, or statement of the author's position. This claim reflects the author's **perspective**, or how he or she views a subject. The claim should be supported by logical reasons—reasons that will make sense to the reader. These reasons should be supported by evidence, such as facts, statistics, expert opinions, and examples.

DIRECTIONS: Read the argument. Then, answer the questions.

It is no secret that the garbage Americans produce is an issue, but underlying that issue is the amount of that garbage that ends up lining highways, city streets, and sidewalks. Billions of tons of garbage are tossed out car windows, thrown in the gutter, or accidentally blown out of trucks. Littering is a serious issue that must stop.

First of all, litter costs the government money. In fact, over 11 billion dollars were spent last year cleaning up other people's messes. Not any less important: litter destroys the environment. Litter is not only ugly but is also dangerous. Because billions of tons of garbage is incorrectly disposed of each year, it ends up in the ocean. There, sea birds are feeding plastic to their young that are starving for real food. In the stomachs of most sea life, plastic can be found.

An easy solution would involve people simply cleaning up after themselves. Every community must get involved in clean-up and prevention. Hosting monthly clean-up days in communities would stop thousands of pounds of litter from reaching the ocean. Placing garbage cans at every street corner will help. Let's all do our part to help!

1. What is the author's central claim, based on his or her perspective?

    _____

2. What two reasons does the author give in support of the claim?

    _____

    _____

3. Give an example of evidence, and tell what kind of evidence it is.

    _____

4. What does the author want readers to do or believe?

    _____

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ANALYZE CRAFT AND STRUCTURE ▸ ARGUMENT

A. DIRECTIONS: Read the argument. Then, answer the questions.

Adopting a dog is a big decision and should be well-researched and planned. People who favor breeding argue that full-bred dogs are more reliable, have better personalities, and are smarter than the average shelter mutt; but they are wrong. Shelter pets are just as lovable, reliable, and smart as many full-bred dogs. By adopting a shelter pet, you are doing a service for the dog, your community, and yourself. Don't shop! Adopt!

1. What is the author's central claim, based on his or her perspective?

   _____

2. What two reasons does the author give in support of the claim?

   _____

   _____

3. What does the author want readers to do or believe?

   _____

B. DIRECTIONS: Read the argument. Then, answer the questions.

Students who move to a new school district need support. That support should come from many sources, including teachers, staff, and other students.

First, the school should provide tours for new students before classes begin. The school might even consider publishing a map for student reference. Because new students usually don't know anyone, it is important to help them create new relationships. Teachers can help by introducing new students and encouraging friendships through group projects.

With support from classmates, teachers, and school staff, the move to a new school can be fun and exciting instead of uncomfortable. Everyone should do his or her part to make new students feel welcome.

1. What is the author's central claim, based on his or her perspective?

   _____

2. What two reasons does the author give in support of the claim?

   _____

   _____

3. What does the author want readers to do or believe?

   _____