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Define the following

- Fact
- Opinion
Types of Claims: Establishing Purpose and Organization

Claims of Fact
Claims of Cause/Prediction
Claims of Hypothesis
Claims of Value
Claims of Policy/Recommendation
Types of Claims

- Virtually all arguments can be categorized according to one of five types of claims.
- Claims can be identified by discovering the question the argument answers.
- As we browse the types, notice how the questions all invite different purposes and different points of view.
- They all lead to argument.
Claims of Fact:

- Did it happen?
- Does it exist?
- Is it true?
- Is it a fact?
Fact Claims: Examples

- Women are as effective as men in combat.
- The ozone layer is becoming depleted.
- Increasing population threatens the environment.
- Bigfoot exists in remote areas.
- Men need women to civilize them.
Fact Claims

- Note that all these claims of fact, but not everyone would agree with them.
- They are all controversial.
- The facts in these claims need to be proved as either absolutely or probably true in order to be acceptable to an audience.
Claims of Cause:

- What caused it?
- Where did it come from?
- Why did it happen?
- What are the effects?
- What will probably be the results over the short and the long term?
Cause Claims: Examples
The cause-effect relationship is at issue in these statements

- Overeating causes disease and early death
- A healthy economy causes people to have faith in their political leaders
- Sending infants to day care results in psychological problems later in life
- Inadequate funding for AIDS research will result in a disastrous worldwide epidemic
- Crime is caused by lack of family values
Cause Claims

- The type of support for establishing a cause-and-effect relationship is factual data, including examples and statistics that are used to prove a cause or an effect.
- Various types of comparison, including parallel cases in past history to show that the cause of one event could also be the cause of another similar event.
Predictions

- A prediction is a claim made about the future based on something being true in the present or past:
  - ‘I’ve never been a man to make predictions. Never have been, and never will be.’ (!) (Paul Gascoine)

- To assess the strength of a prediction, you will need to think about how much evidence there is in support of it; how clearly it is expressed and how reliable/well informed its source is.
Hypotheses

- Hypotheses are claims put forward for testing which attempt a possible explanation of a particular event or events.
- For example, if I were to leave my house one morning and notice my car wasn’t in the drive, I could offer a range of hypotheses to account for this. For example:
  - My nephew had taken the car
  - I have been acting very absent-mindedly of late and perhaps I left the car at work yesterday
  - The car had been stolen (etc.)
- For evaluation purposes, it is the essence of a hypothesis that it should be testable (see above). If a hypothesis cannot be proved true or false, then it will not be a hypothesis proper
Claims of Value:

- Is it good or bad?
- How bad?
- How good?
- Of what worth is it?

It is often necessary to establish criteria for goodness or badness in these arguments and then to apply them to the subject to show why something should be regarded as either good or bad.
Value Claims

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Value Claims: Examples

- Public schools are better than private schools
- Science Fiction novels are more interesting to read than romance novels
- Dogs make the best pets
- Mercy Killing is immoral
- Computers are a valuable addition to modern society
- Viewing television is a wasteful activity
Claims of Policy

- What should we do about it?
- How should we act?
- What should our future policy/recommendation be?
- How can we solve this problem?
- What concrete course of action should we pursue to solve the problem?
Policy Claims: Examples

- We should stop spending so much on prisons and start spending more on education
- Children in low-income families should receive medical insurance from the government
- Social security should be distributed on the basis of need rather than as an entitlement
Policy Claims: Examples

- Every person in the United States should have access to health care
- Film-makers and recording groups should make objectionable language and subject matter known to prospective consumers
● Spend a few (5 -10) minutes observing what happens in an open public area, like a busy intersection, the campus quadrangle, or a shopping mall. Write a paragraph that contains a strictly factual descriptive account of what you observed. Next write a paragraph that, besides being informative, is entertaining. Then write a paragraph that uses the information in a persuasive way.
Claims Quiz

1. Which type of claim answers the questions "did it happen" or "does it exist?"
   a. prediction  b. value  c. policy/recommendation  d. fact

2. Which type of claim is subjective?
   a. prediction  b. fact  c. opinion  d. policy/recommendation

3. Which type of claim says something may or may not be true in the future?
   a. value  b. definition  c. prediction  d. policy/recommendation

4. Which type of claim answers the question "how could we solve this problem?"
   a. prediction  b. fact  c. value  d. policy/recommendation

5. The signal words ‘should’, ‘ought to’, ‘must’ are usually associated with which type of claim?
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