

Building an argument is like building a strong house: you need a solid foundation and the right materials to make it stand. First, start with your **claim**—this is your main idea or opinion, the “what” you want people to believe. For example: *„Students shouldn’t have too much homework.”* Next, add a **reason**—this is your “why,” the explanation that shows your claim makes sense. For instance: *„Too much homework leaves students stressed and exhausted.”* But even a good reason needs proof, which brings us to **evidence**. This is your “how do you know?”—facts, examples, or research that back up your point. For example: *„Studies show that students with less homework sleep better and perform better in school.”*

Finally, make your argument stronger by considering other opinions, called **counterarguments**, and showing why they don’t hold up. If you can follow these steps, your argument will grab attention, make sense, and convince others every time.