

Identifying the Claim, Warrant, and Impact

Before we can discuss how to use claims, warrants, and impacts to create great arguments and rebuttals in a round, we must first understand what they are.

Claim: In basic terms, a claim is the argumentative statement that is being made.

Warrant: Evidence in terms of data, scholarly opinions, or statistics that can be used to support your claim.

Impact: An impact is something good that may result if your claim is taken into consideration or could be something bad that happens if your claim is not taken into consideration. Essentially, why your argument matters and who or what it affects.

Here, we will discuss how to identify the claim, warrant, and impact in an argument and how you can use each to your advantage. For this purpose of this, we will be using a 2017 resolution:

Resolved: The United States should require universal background checks for all gun sales and transfer of ownership.

Watch the following video to learn how to identify claims, warrants, and impacts:

https://youtu.be/zif_QKYb6Qg

Weekly Activity

Now that you see how we can use claim, warrant, and impact in our cards and argument, let's actually try to put things into practice. Using the same resolution as the video example, try and complete the table on the next page with either the missing, claim, warrant, or impact. This table focuses on cards and arguments for the pro side to this resolution you can also try and make a table for the con side of this resolution. Try and see if you can get creative with it and create an argument that would be hard to refute!

Resolved: The United States should require universal background checks for all gun sales and transfer of ownership.

Claim	Warrant	Impact
<p>Lack of background checks allows gun traffickers to easily purchase guns for resale to criminals.</p>		
<p>The vast majority of Americans support the implementation of universal background checks. As a democracy, the US should implement this policy.</p>	<p>Hannah Fingerhut “5 facts about guns in the United States” <i>Pew Research Center</i>. 01/05/16. http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/01/05/5-facts-about-guns-in-the-united-states/</p> <p>“Americans have shown broad and consistent support for expanded background checks for gun purchasers. In July, 85% of the public – including large majorities of both Republicans (79%) and Democrats (88%) – favored making private gun sales and sales at gun shows subject to background checks. There also was substantial bipartisan support for laws to prevent people with mental illness from purchasing guns.”</p>	
		<p>1 million attempted firearm purchases by convicted felons have been prevented by background checks and gun homicides decrease as a result of background checks.</p>