

# Vocabulary 7 – Argument Terms

1. **Argument** - A coherent series of reasons, statements, or facts intended to support or establish a point of view; explains what someone believes in order to advance toward a truth: a defense attorney's closing argument.
2. **Premise** - A previous statement or proposition from which another is inferred or follows as a conclusion. "if the premise is true, then the conclusion must be true." An assertion or proposition which forms the basis for a work or theory. "The fundamental premise of the report." Synonyms:  
proposition, assumption, hypothesis, thesis, presupposition, postulation, postulate, supposition "the premise that human life consists of a series of choices"
3. **Proposal** - A plan or suggestion, especially a formal or written one, put forward for consideration or discussion by others. "a set of proposals for a major new high-speed rail link"
4. **Claim** - To state or assert that something is the case, typically without providing evidence or proof. "he claimed that he came from a wealthy, educated family" assert that one has gained or achieved (something). "his supporters claimed victory in the presidential elections"
5. **Causality** - The relation between a [cause](#) and its effect or between regularly correlated events or phenomena; the principle that everything has a cause.
6. **Concession** - Accepting at least part or all of an opposing viewpoint. Often used to make one's own argument stronger by demonstrating that one is willing to accept what is obviously true and reasonable, even if it is presented by the opposition. Sometimes also called multiple perspectives because the author is accepting more than one position as true. Sometimes a concession is immediately followed by a rebuttal of the concession.
7. **Deductive Reasoning** - ("top-down logic") Logic characterized by or based on the inference of particular instances from a general law; relating to, or provable by deriving conclusions by reasoning : of, relating to, or provable by deduction. the process of [reasoning](#) from one or more [statements](#) (premises) to reach a [logically](#) certain conclusion. Deductive reasoning goes in the same direction as that of the conditionals, and links [premises](#) with [conclusions](#). If all premises are true, the terms are [clear](#), and the rules of deductive [logic](#) are followed, then the conclusion reached is [necessarily true](#).
8. **Syllogism** - An instance of a form of deductive reasoning in which a conclusion is drawn (whether validly or not) from two given or assumed propositions (premises), each of which shares a term with the conclusion, and shares a common or middle term not present in the conclusion (e.g., all dogs are animals; all animals have four legs; therefore all dogs have four legs ).

9. **Inductive Reasoning** - ("bottom-up logic") Logic in the following way; in deductive reasoning, a conclusion is reached reductively by applying general rules which hold over the entirety of a closed domain of discourse, narrowing the range under consideration until only the conclusion(s) is left. In inductive reasoning, the conclusion is reached by generalizing or extrapolating from specific cases to general rules. An argument in which it is thought that the premises provide reasons supporting the probable truth of the conclusion. In an inductive argument, the premises are intended only to be so strong that, if they are true, then it is unlikely that the conclusion is false.
10. **Persuasion** – To convince someone to take up your opinion or to drive them to action
11. **Contentious** - Causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial. "a contentious issue" controversial, disputable, debatable, disputed, open to debate, vexed, involving heated argument. "the socioeconomic plan had been the subject of contentious debate" (of a person) given to arguing or provoking argument, "a contentious amateur politician who has offended minority groups."
12. **Propaganda** - Information, especially of a biased or misleading nature, used to promote or publicize a particular political cause or point of view.
13. **Invoke** - Cite or appeal to (someone or something) as an authority for an action or in support of an argument. "the antiquated defense of insanity is rarely invoked today" call on (a deity or spirit) in prayer, as a witness, or for inspiration. call earnestly for. "she invoked his help against this attack"
14. **Evasive** - Tending to avoid commitment or self-revelation, especially by responding only indirectly. "she was evasive about her phone number" directed toward avoidance or escape. "they decided to take evasive action"
15. **Digression** - A temporary departure from one subject to another more or less distantly related topic before the discussion of the first subject is resumed. A valuable technique in the art of storytelling, digression is also employed in many kinds of non-fictional writing and oratory.
16. **Equivocation** - The use of equivocal or ambiguous expressions, esp. in order to mislead or hedge; prevarication. a fallacy caused by the double meaning of a word. intentionally vague or ambiguous. Equivocation is the use in a syllogism (a logical chain of reasoning) of a term several times, but giving the term a different meaning each time. For example: A feather is light. What is light cannot be dark. Therefore, a feather cannot be dark.  
Formulate
17. **Juxtapose** - To place (different things) side by side (as to compare them or contrast them or to create an interesting effect)
18. **Unabashedly** - Not embarrassed, disconcerted, or ashamed.
19. **Prescient** - Having or showing knowledge of events before they take place. "a prescient warning"
20. **Innocuous** - Not harmful or offensive. "it was an innocuous question" "he was charged with distributing enemy propaganda"