A strong, well-supported argument uses clear, relevant evidence and explains how the evidence supports the claim. Use the instructions below to analyze your essay.

**Step 1**

Write your claim from your essay.

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**Step 2**

Ask yourself the following questions:

* Have I presented clear reasons for my claim?
* Are my reasons supported by evidence?
* Do I include an explanation of how the reasons and evidence support the claim?

Complete the table on the next page.

* In the first column, in just a few words, describe each of your reasons. Write one reason per row.
* In the second column, in just a few words, describe what kind of evidence you provide. A quote? Statistics? An example?
* In the final column, indicate “yes” if you’ve included reasoning—that is, an explanation of how the evidence supports the claim.

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| **My Reasons** | **My Evidence** | **Explanation?** |
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**Vocabulary Supports**

**Argument**—an attempt to persuade or convince others to accept an opinion or position on an issue

**Claim**—an arguable position on an issue

**Counterclaim**—a different position on an issue that opposes the writer’s claim

**Evidence**—details such as facts, statistics, or quotations that support the writer’s claim

**Focus**—the set of related ideas used by a writer to support an argument; an argument that lacks focus, presents unrelated ideas, or goes off topic

**Prompt**—the information and instructions students are responding to when writing an argument

**Reason**—a statement explaining why a writer takes a particular position in an argument

**Reasoning**—an explanation of how a reason and its supporting evidence connect to the claim