|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | A **claim** is an **arguable** stance. It is an idea that you want others to understand or accept as they read your argument. Claims should be arguable and specific. |

Decide whether or not each statement is arguable. Mark the correct column. An arguable claim is debatable; there may be a different but reasonable point of view on the subject. (Not arguable: The U.S. is in North America.)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **Arguable** | **Not Arguable** |
| **Single-use** plastic shopping bags are **worse** for the **environment** than more durable reusable bags. |  |  |
| New **taxes** create a **burden** for the **poor** more than they do for **middle-class** or **wealthy** families. |  |  |
| The city should consider a small tax on plastic shopping bags to reduce the number of bags that enter the environment. |  |  |
| Citizens should be rewarded for their efforts to improve the local environment. |  |  |

Identify whether or not each of the following claims is specific and clear.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Claim** | **Clear** | **Specific** |
| They should do something about traffic around the school. |  |  |
| **Crossing guards** are the best solution for controlling traffic outside of school. |  |  |
| Those are problems that should be fixed. |  |  |

**Vocabulary Supports**

**Burden**: Hardship

**Crossing Guard:** A person who helps children cross the street safely

**Durable:** Tough, strong

**Environment:** Nature

**Middle Class:** The group of people who are between those who are wealthy and those who are working-class. Working-class people are often at risk of falling into poverty.

**Poor**: People who lack the money to provide a standard of living that is considered adequate to provide enough food and safe shelter, as well as opportunities for economic mobility, etc.

**Reusable:** Able to be used more than once

**Single-use:** Used once and then thrown away

**Taxes:** Payments to the government for shared services, such as schools and firefighters

**Wealthy:** The group of people who have the most money