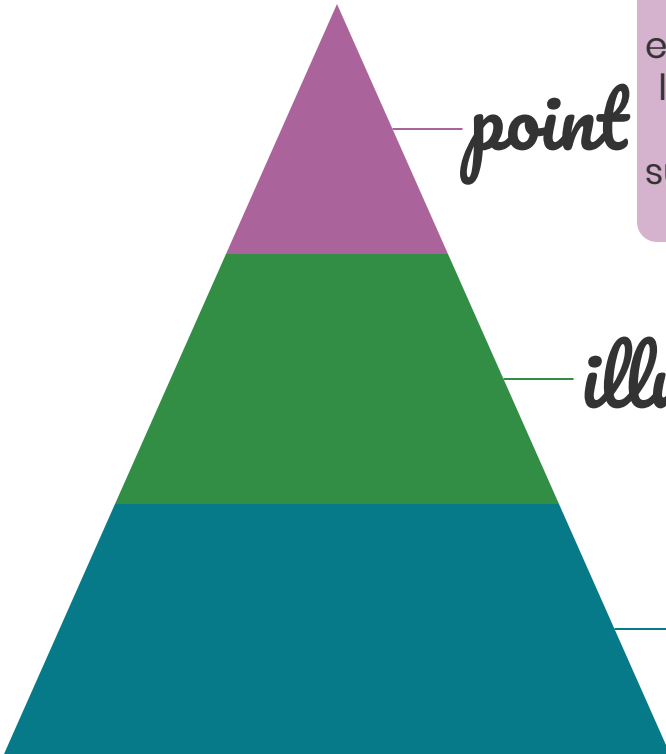


point, illustration, explanation
building blocks of
argument



point

The **claim** that you are trying to prove; a narrow, debatable opinion based on your educated interpretation of evidence. Your argument likely has **claims of many different sizes**: some, like your central argument, take many examples to support; some small claims can be supported with a single example in the space of a sentence.

illustration

Illustrations are the **evidence** on which your claims are based. There is **no rule about how many pieces of evidence to use**. The more difficult it will be to convince your reader of your claim, the more evidence you will likely need!

explanation

The key to your argument: explaining patiently, precisely & clearly **how your illustration supports your claim**.

5 *types of evidence*



Expert Commentary: Statements from a respected expert in a relevant field.

Statistics: Expert research or data that makes a point about a group of people.



Anecdote: Stories about individuals (from history, news, personal experience, etc.)

Primary Sources: Evidence that you interpret, such as quotes & documents



Analogy: Meaningful comparisons to related disciplines or subjects

study model texts to find types of evidence suited to the genre you're writing in

explanation: explained

- Don't just explain WHAT the evidence means...your reader already read the evidence! Explain HOW it supports your point/claim.
- Don't just leave the evidence to speak for itself. The reader may not interpret the evidence the same way that you do. They might disagree!
- Consider stopping to explain each illustration/piece of evidence as you give it, rather than giving several pieces of evidence and explaining them at the end. (We chew food as we eat; we don't cram it all in & chew at the end of the meal!)
- You can make several points about each piece of evidence!