



ThinkerAnalytix

# Components of Arguments





## Example Argument

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**Premise**



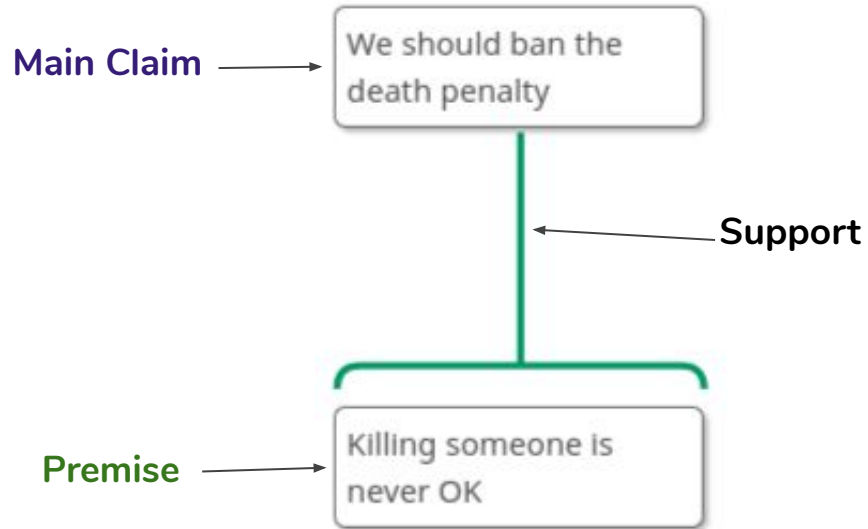
# Example Argument

“We should ban the death penalty, since killing someone is never OK.”

**Main Claim**

**Premise**

# Visualize the support relationship







# It's all about claims.

**Claim:** A statement that the speaker wants you to believe.

## Types of Claims

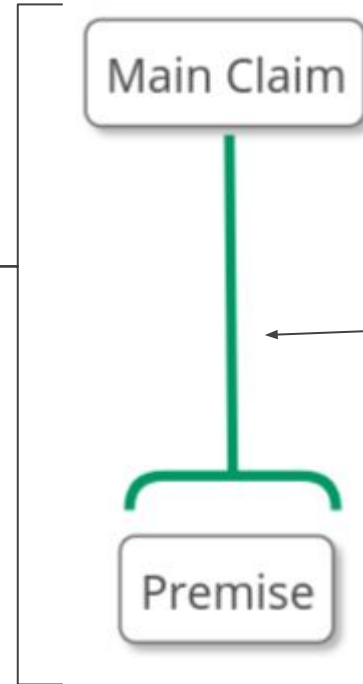
- **Main Claim:** The point of the argument; the primary thing the speaker wants the audience to believe.
- **Premise:** A **claim** that gives a reason to believe another **claim**.
  - A premise answers the question: “*Why should I believe this?*”
  - **Premises support** other **claims**.
  - **Support** just means “gives a reason to believe”
- **Objection:** A **claim** that gives a reason not to believe another **claim**.



# Visual Definition

**Argument:**

Main Claim + Premise(s)



**Support:**

“Why should I believe this?”



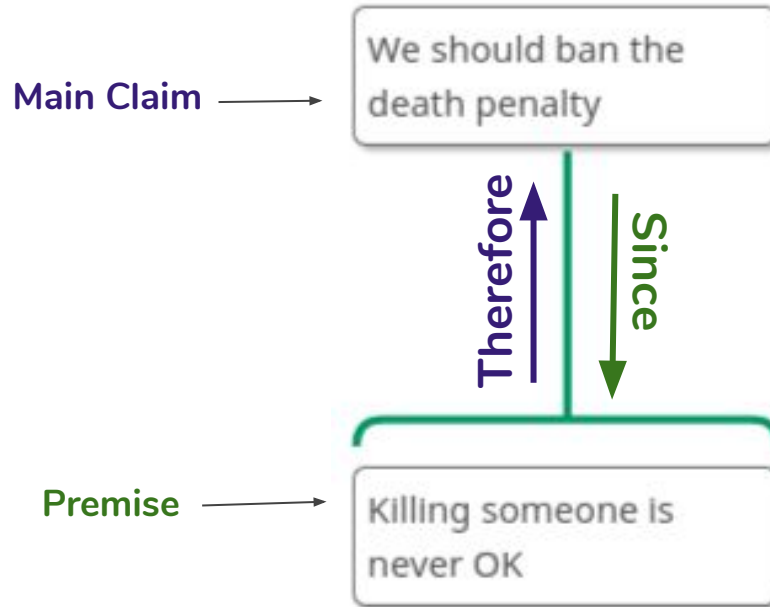
# Indicator Words

“We should ban the death penalty, **since** killing someone is never OK.”  
**Main Claim** **Premise**

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“Killing someone is never OK, **therefore** we should ban the death penalty.”  
**Premise** **Main Claim**

# Visualizing indicator words





# Indicator Words

Main Claim	Premise	Objection
So	Because	However
Therefore	Since	But, yet
Thus	Seeing as, given that	On the other hand
Hence, ergo	For	
Accordingly, as such	Additionally, furthermore, second/third, etc.	



## Practice: ID the main claim and premises

Police body cameras encourage good behavior from police officers and the public, since people act differently when they know they're being monitored. Cameras will also improve police accountability because they provide evidence for what really happened. Therefore, we should require that all police wear body cameras.



# The Charity Principle

- Put yourself in the author's shoes; try to see where they're coming from
  - **\*Especially\*** if you disagree with their main claim, or find it offensive or morally wrong
  - The author should agree with you that this is what they are saying
  - Treat other people's arguments how you want them to treat yours
- First, get clear on what the argument is. Then, you will be in a position to decide if it's any good.
  - You don't have a right to criticize an argument until you've shown that you understand it
    - Show that you understand it by representing it accurately



# Kahoot: Premise, Objection, or Neither?