

Argumentative Texts

- An **argumentative** text is a writing piece meant to _____ someone to think the way the author does.
- A **claim** is an _____ statement—an idea that the author asks an audience to _____.
- In an argumentative text, the **claim** is the _____.
- **Reasons** are more specific _____ that support the overall claim.
- **Evidence** is a series _____, examples, _____, and quotes that support the reasons and ultimately the claim.

Question 5 in Questions Section:

PART A: Which of the following identifies the overall claim of the text?

- a. Students are more likely to appreciate their accomplishments if they had to struggle to achieve them.
- b. Students who are open about their failures show that they have the ability to grow and be successful in college and beyond.
- c. While educators want to have perfect students on their college campuses, they understand that not all students can achieve perfection.
- d. If students cannot fail gracefully, they will not be able to handle the harsh environment of higher education.

HINT: In order to answer this question, the reader needs to think about the passage as a whole. While, each of the responses is true, which choice covers the entire passage? Which choices are smaller details that develop the central idea? The title often hints at the central idea.

Question 6 in Questions Section:

PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. “Even the sacrifice of staying up late to do something unrelated to school, they see as a risk to my academic work and college success.” (Paragraph 2)
- b. “When I was traveling in China last fall and asked a student what she did for fun, she replied: ‘I thought I wasn’t supposed to tell you that?’” (Paragraph 3)
- c. “Students try their best to hide factors they perceive to be negative and only tell us things they believe we will find impressive.” (Paragraph 5)
- d. “The ability to bounce back is a fundamental life skill students have to learn on their own. The lessons of failure can’t be taught in a classroom; they are experienced and reflected upon.” (Paragraph 7)

HINT: Which of the choices is a direct reason that the claim is true?

Question 7 in Questions Section:

PART A: How does the example of the student who failed precalculus in paragraphs 7-8 contribute to the development of ideas in the article?

- a. It gives an example of a student who failed and turned it into a positive experience.
- b. It emphasizes the point that failing is something that all students experience.
- c. It shows how strongly students are affected by perceived failures.
- d. It gives an example of a student who has the perfect college application.

HINT: To figure out the answer to this question, answer the following questions...

What is the overall claim/central idea?

Which choice demonstrates all parts of the claim? (Failure *leading* to long-term success)

Question 8 in Questions Section:

PART B: Which section from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

- a. "The ability to bounce back is a fundamental life skill students have to learn on their own." (Paragraph 7)
- b. "During my weekend of interviews, another student told me, 'I'm ashamed to admit I failed precalculus'" (Paragraph 7)
- c. "I realized that I can't let a grade define my success. I also learned that if you want anything bad enough, you can achieve it." (Paragraph 7)
- d. "I smiled as I wrote his words down on the application-review form. This kid will thrive on my campus." (Paragraph 8)

HINT: Again, which choice demonstrates all parts of the claim? (Failure leading to long-term success)

- The last question for this passage asks about the author's **point-of-view** toward a specific subject. The author of a text will write from a certain **point-of-view** about the topic or subject.
- The author's **point-of-view** is his or her _____ on that topic or subject.

Question 10 in Questions Section:

What is the author's point-of-view towards the idea that you have to be perfect in order to get into college? Provide two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.

Answer Box:

HINT: Look at the following chart to help you write your response. You can use the provided textual evidence in your response.

<i>“you have to be perfect in order to get into college”</i>	
Textual Evidence	Inference
<p>reading about “lessons learned or challenges overcome” in college essays excites admission officers (Paragraph 6)</p> <p>making mistakes leads students to develop a “fundamental life skill” that allows them “to learn on their own” (Paragraph 7)</p>	