

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## SKILL FOCUS

**A. Read the terms in the box. Then, write each term next to its definition.**

claim    counterclaim    reason    evidence    argument    transition words

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the use of reasons and evidence to support a claim
2. \_\_\_\_\_ the main point of an author's argument
3. \_\_\_\_\_ why the author makes the claim
4. \_\_\_\_\_ examples, facts, and expert quotes that support the reason
5. \_\_\_\_\_ words that connect ideas in a text
6. \_\_\_\_\_ a point that disagrees with the author's main point

**B. Use the terms and definitions from Part A to fill in the crossword puzzle.** Hint: One term is not used.

**ACROSS**

3. Why the author makes the claim

4. A point that disagrees with the author's main point

5. Examples, facts, and expert quotes that support the reason

**DOWN**

1. The use of reasons and evidence to support a claim

2. The main point of an author's argument

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## SKILL FOCUS

C. Use the terms and definitions in Part A to complete the definitions below.

<b>ARGUMENT</b> 	
<b>CLAIM:</b> the _____ point of an author's _____	
<b>REASON:</b> _____ the author makes the claim	
<b>EVIDENCE:</b> _____, _____, and expert quotes that support the reason	
<b>COUNTERCLAIM:</b> a point that _____ with the author's main point	

D. Decide if each statement is true or false. Circle your answer.

1. An argument includes a claim, or viewpoint.	True / False
2. Reasons for the claim are not necessary in a strong argument.	True / False
3. A strong argument contains personal opinion with no evidence.	True / False
4. An expert's findings can be a type of evidence in an argument.	True / False
5. Transition words like <i>The main reason</i> , <i>Another reason</i> , and <i>Most important</i> signal that the author is stating reasons that support the claim.	True / False

SKILL FOCUS

E. Read each sentence and circle the correct answer. Then, find the 3 transition words that signal reasons and/or evidence for the claim, and underline them.



In Support of Gum Chewing	Is the sentence a <i>claim</i> , <i>reason</i> , <i>evidence</i> , or <i>counterclaim</i> ?
1. Students should be permitted to chew gum in class.	claim / counterclaim
2. For one thing, chewing gum helps students relieve stress.	reason / evidence
3. In fact, researchers in Japan found that gum chewing was associated with less stress in a group of young people who were asked to chew gum twice a day for two weeks.	reason / evidence
4. In addition, chewing gum in class helps students stay more focused and alert, especially when taking tests.	reason / evidence
5. A 2011 study showed that participants who chewed gum just before and at the beginning of a test had higher test performance than those who didn't.	reason / evidence
6. Some may argue that gum chewing shouldn't be allowed in the classroom because it is distracting and messy.	claim / counterclaim

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