**Identifying Positions, Claims, and Support Name:**

We all have opinions.

Examples: “I don’t like Mountain Dew.”

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If we are asked whether we like or do not like something, we often “support” our opinions with claims that are based on**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. This is fine in informal discussions, but to make an **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**, which is different from expressing an opinion, we must have support with **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(provable)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Opinion** can be based \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_as well as facts and statistics.

**Facts** can be proven \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Arguments** must be supported by verifiable (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) evidence and reasons.

When developing an argument, you must have:

**Position**- statement of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Claim**- Support used to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_a position

**Evidence**- verifiable facts/examples that can be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions**: Read each paragraph, and then indentify the author’s position, claims, and evidence.

Underline the position.

Claims

Evidence

1. Labradoodles make the best pets. First of all, they are the perfect size—not too big but not some little “poofy” dog either. They are also very loving. My Labradoodle sleeps with me every night, and I just love cuddling up with him. President and Mrs. Obama were going to get a Labradoodle, but they got a Portuguese Water Dog instead. Still, if it was good enough for the President to consider, it’s good enough for me. In fact, I named my Labradoodle “Bo” after the President’s dog.
2. Can any of the evidence be PROVEN true or false through research? If yes, provide an example.
3. Is this paragraph opinion or fact based?
4. Is this a strong argument? Why or Why not?
5. Labradoodles do not make good pets. First of all, you can never be sure of a Labradoodle’s temperament. *This is* becauseany time you cross two breeds, such as a Poodle and a Labrador; you cannot be 100% sure about the genetic mix. So, although most Labradors tend to be gentle, many Poodles are “high-strung” and they should not be around young children. Furthermore, Labradoodles have too many health problems. In fact, veterinarians and breeders note that both Poodles and Labrador Retrievers have a tendency to develop hip and eye problems. With today’s troubled economy, no one wants to spend all their money to treat a pet’s medical conditions, which can cost thousands of dollars.
6. Can any of the evidence be PROVEN true or false through research? If yes, provide an example.
7. Is this paragraph opinion or fact based?
8. Is this a strong argument? Why or Why not?
9. Labradoodles make the best pets. A Labradoodle is a cross between a Labrador Retriever and a Poodle; that is why they are called a “hybrid.” They are good family dogs because they have the peaceful disposition of a Labrador. In fact, the SPCA recommends them for families with young children. Their intelligence and high trainability make them well suited for guide dogs, therapy dogs, and other assistance dogs. They are also good for people who have allergies to dog hair because like a Poodle, they don’t shed as much as other breeds. That means there are fewer allergens to bother people who have allergic reactions to pet hair dander. They are also used as guide dogs. No wonder they have become one of the most popular dogs over the past ten years.
10. Can any of the evidence be PROVEN true or false through research? If yes, provide an example.
11. Is this paragraph opinion or fact based?
12. Is this a strong argument? Why or Why not?