

## Supporting Your Points

### Evidence

Almost always, evidence will be necessary to proving your point to your reader. As much as possible, find experts and statistics that you can cite. You may already know the information, but your reader will have little reason to take your word for it. Try to pick very strong sources. University studies are more convincing than Wikipedia. Medical journals are more convincing than a daytime talk show doctor. College writing is saturated with citations – the skill of a college writer is linking the sources together and interpreting them for their readers. Every assertion needs support.

### Rhetoric

There are three types of arguments: **logical**, **ethical**, and **emotional** (sometimes called logos, ethos, pathos). **Logical** (logos) arguments are discussed above – they are arguments that can be quantified and proven using evidence.

*50% of marriages end in divorce. This means that a lot of children are growing up without their parents being married.*

**Ethical** arguments (ethos) are concerned with morality. An ethical argument will assert that something is right or wrong.

*Divorce is a bad thing because not having two parents at home can make life difficult for children, and may cause problems such as low self-esteem.*

The final type of argument is **emotional** (pathos). This type of argument plays with the reader's emotions such as affection, sadness, or anger, in order to make their point.

*The daughter's eyes were red with tears because she thought the divorce was her fault.*

All three of these rhetorical strategies are useful in making arguments. You should try to find a balance between all three – any argument that has too much of only one type will not be as effective as one that has all three. You should try to use logic, ethics, and emotion for each of your supporting points.

Middle schools should have a uniform policy because it will lessen school costs for parents. Buying the latest trendy clothes can cost between \$100 and \$500 a year or more per school year. Clothes can end up costing more than books, field trips, and school supplies combined! This disproportionate spending is wrong because the point of school is to get an education – which books and field trips can provide – not to look fashionable. Also, the students whose parents can't afford to keep them in the latest brands can be singled out for bullying, which can make some students decide to commit suicide.