



## INSTRUCTIONAL ONE-PAGER

# EBA SKILL #2: Strong Reasoning

### DEFINITIONS

**CLAIM:** A debatable statement.

**EVIDENCE:** Any factual information presented to support a claim.

**REASONING:** Key link in your argument that explains how your evidence helps prove your claim.

Reasoning is the “glue” that connects your evidence (legs) to your claim (seat).

Reasoning holds your argument together, just like the glue holds together the parts of a stool.



**CLAIM:**

**EVIDENCE:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**REASONING:**

### EXAMPLES

**CLAIM:** Spinach is better for you than chocolate.

**EVIDENCE:** Chocolate has caffeine in it, but spinach does not.

**REASONING:** Too much caffeine is shown to have negative effects on health, so spinach is a healthier choice than chocolate because it's caffeine-free.

**COMPLETE ARGUMENT (CLAIM + EVIDENCE + REASONING):** Too much caffeine is shown to have negative effects on health, so spinach is a healthier choice than chocolate because it's caffeine-free.

## Strong Reasoning Checklist

Make sure your reasoning does the following:

- **CLEARLY AND FULLY EXPLAINS HOW THE EVIDENCE CONNECTS TO THE CLAIM.**
  - » Reasoning is not just restating the evidence in different words!
- **MAKES CONNECTIONS EXPLICIT (OPENLY STATED).**
  - » Doesn't assume the reader knows or believes certain things.
- **IS PRECISE ABOUT WHAT THE EVIDENCE SAYS ABOUT THE CLAIM.**
  - » Doesn't overstate things, or draw too big a conclusion.
- **AVOIDS GENERALIZATIONS AND STEREOTYPES.**
- **SPEAKS TO THE AUDIENCE AND WHAT THE AUDIENCE MIGHT CARE ABOUT.**