The Craft of Research

Chapter Eight: Claims

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• Probably will not be your final claim.

• Need a claim before we can know how to argue it.

• Articulate the best, most complete claim your current understanding allows.
Three Questions Test

- What kind of claim will you make?
- Can you state it specifically?
- Will your readers think it is significant?
What Kind of Claim?

• Depends on the problem.

• Conceptual vs Practical.

• Feasible; Cheaper than current problem; Not a bigger problem; Better than alternatives.
Is Your Claim Specific?

- Detailed claims are more easily seen as substantive.
- Specific logic can quell and compel readers.
- Although I knowledge X, I claim Y, because of Z.
Is Your Claim Significant?

• If readers accept my claim, how many other beliefs must they change?

• Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof.

• Upset > Settled score > Declaration.
• If your claim is significant or interesting, counter-claims should be also.

• If they can argue against you, they may be willing to listen to you.

• Self-test: How did I get here?
Questions?