

## Here's the Evidence

### DEBATABLE CLAIM

*Year-round school improves students' academic achievement.*

### EVIDENCE

personal experience, reasons, confirmed facts, statistics, expert research

**#1 Personal experience** – any actual experience with the topic that you, your family, and friends have had.

**EXAMPLE:** I forgot fewer of my math skills over the summer because my summer break was so short. thanks to year-round school.

**#2 Reasons** – logical reasons that support the opinions made in the claim.

**EXAMPLE:** Because students have multiple breaks throughout the year, they experience less academic burnout. They have frequent opportunities to refresh and restart their learning experience.

**#3 Confirmed facts** – facts that have been found in reliable/credible sources.

**EXAMPLE:** A review of 39 studies confirmed summertime learning loss: test scores drop over summer vacation (Cooper, et al., 1996) > *This is the name of the expert who did the review and the year it was done.*

**#4 Statistics** – numbers and percentages that are relevant to the topic and come from reliable/credible sources.

**EXAMPLE:** Year-round schools have lower drop-out rates (2%) than traditional schools (5%) (StatisticBrain.com).

**#5 Research by experts** – research that is done by professors, researchers, or doctors who have a deep knowledge of the topic; always found in credible/reliable sources.

**EXAMPLE:** One study of six elementary schools, three on traditional calendars and three on year-round schedules, found positive effects of year-round education. The sample of students in the year-round schools posted overall test-scores that were higher than students at the schools with traditional calendars (*Education Week*).

**Challenge Question:** What do you notice about the last three types of evidence?