

# The Argument

## **Introducing Claim, Counter Claim and Rebuttal**

# Objectives:

- To understand persuasion
- To understand argument
- To understand claim,  
counterclaim and rebuttal

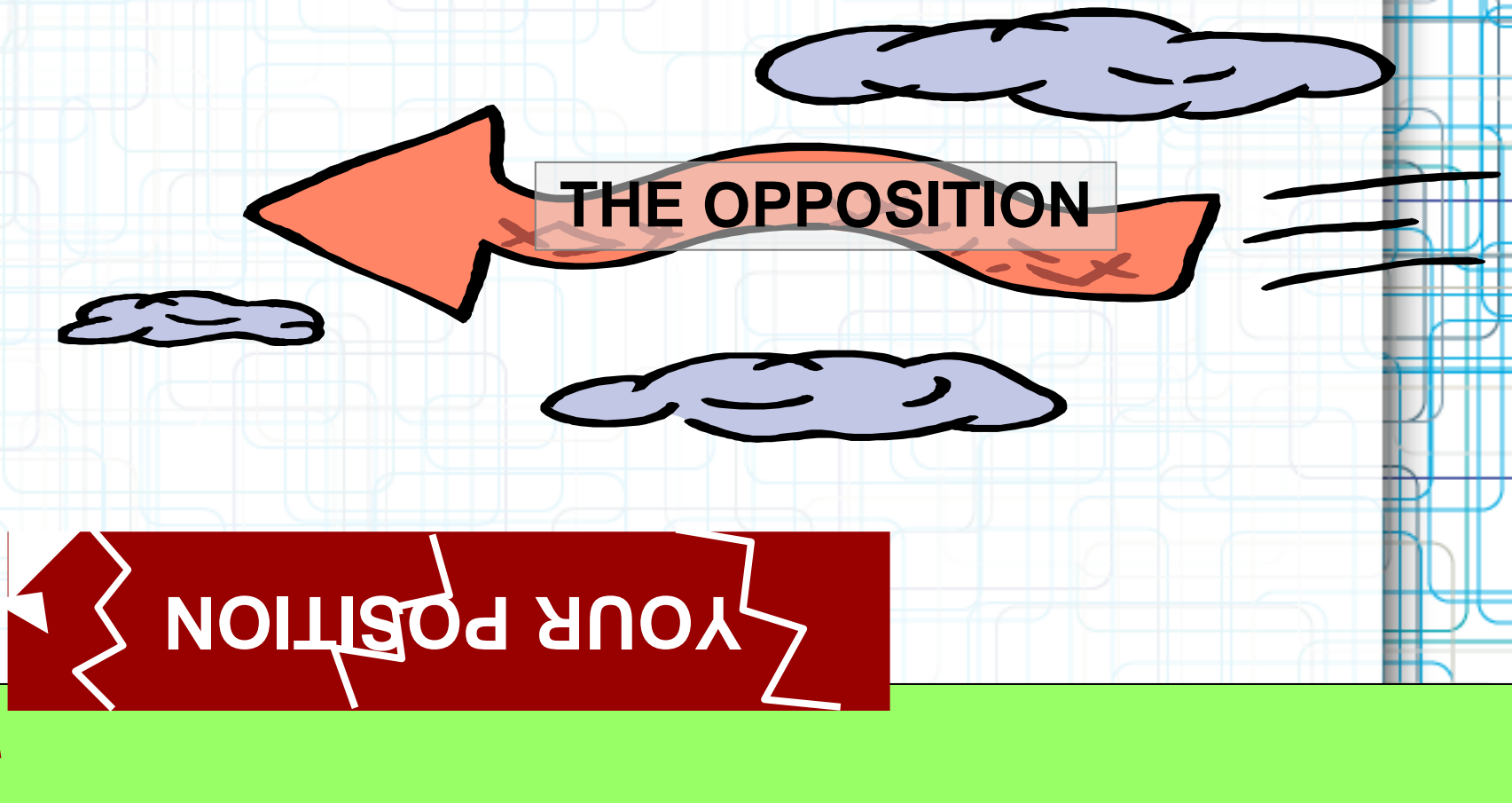
# What Persuasion Looks Like

**YOUR POSITION**

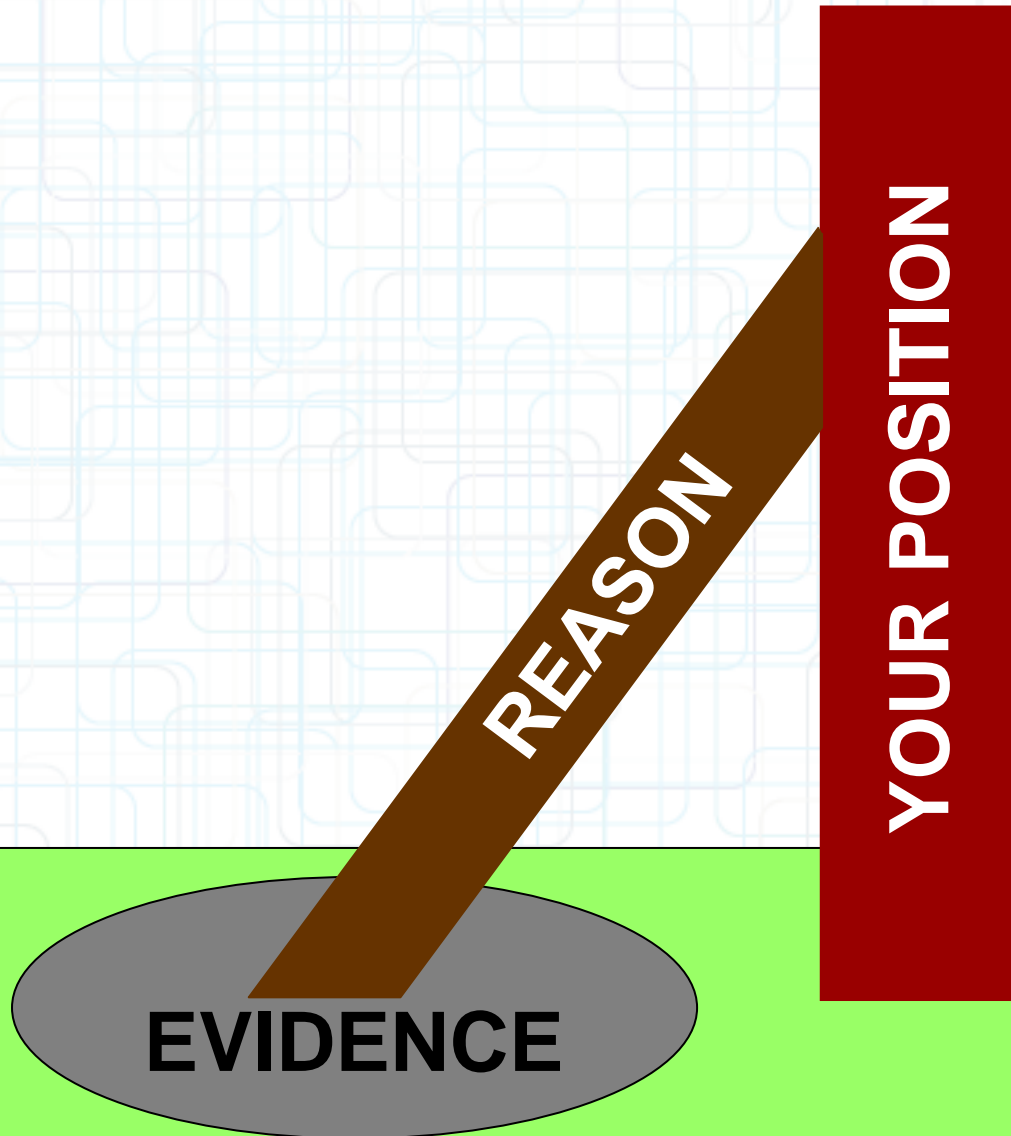
**THE OPPOSITION**



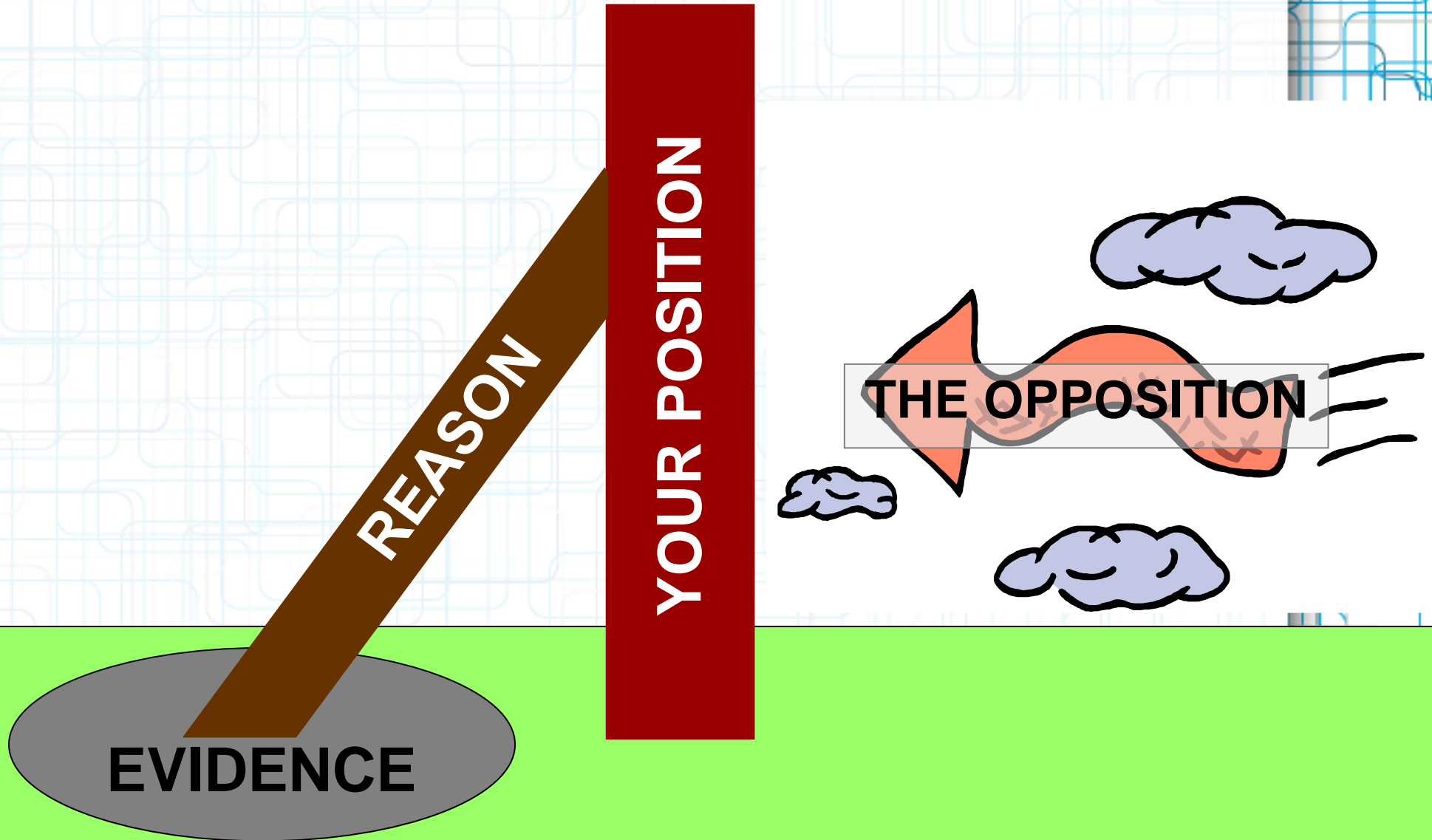
# What Persuasion looks like with opposition



# What Argument Looks Like



# What Argument Looks like with Opposition



# What is Argument?

To change reader's point of view

To bring about some action on the reader's part

To ask the reader to accept the writer's explanation or evaluation of a concept, issue, or problem

# What Exactly is an Argument?

an argument involves the process of establishing a claim and then proving it with the use of logical reasoning, examples, and research



# What is an Argument?

- The purpose of an argument is to provide evidence and reasons to the reader to accept—or seriously consider--on a controversial (debatable) issue
- Has three parts: Claim, Counter Claim, Rebuttal
- (plus Introduction and Conclusion)

# Consider your Audience

- Whom are you trying to reach?
- What do they already know about your topic?
- What is your relationship with your audience and how does it impact your word choice and tone?

# CLAIM

- Your opinion or position on an issue
- Must be supported with evidence (quotes, facts, data)
- Evidence must be explained with reasons

# COUNTER CLAIM

- Consider the opposite side
- Argues **against** your claim
- Turn against your argument to challenge it
- Then turn back to reaffirm your position (REBUT-claim or prove that (evidence or an accusation) is false.)

# REBUTTAL

- Turn back to your original position
- Responds to and refutes issues presented by the counterclaim
- Return to your original argument based upon careful reasoning
  - Show why counter argument is mistaken
  - Acknowledge it, but show why it is less important

# The Opposing Side

- Ask these questions:
  - 1. Who might disagree with my position? Why?
  - 2. What reasons do people have for disagreeing with me?
  - 3. What evidence would support an opposing argument?

# Counter Claim

- **Key phrases to use:**
- One might object that...
- It might seem that...
- It's true that...
- Admittedly...
- Of course...

# REBUTTAL

- **Key Phrases to use:**
- but
- yet
- however
- nonetheless
- still



# Counterclaim and Rebuttal

Hybrid cars are an effective strategy to fight pollution. Driving a private car is a typical citizen's most air polluting activity. Because cars are the largest source of private, as opposed to industry produced, air pollution switching to hybrid cars should have an impact on fighting pollution.

Another reason why hybrid cars are an effective strategy to fight pollution is because hybrid cars combine a gasoline engine with a battery-powered electric motor. This combination of technologies means that less pollution is produced.

Some people feel that instead of focusing on cars, which still encourages a culture of driving even if it cuts down on pollution, the nation should focus on building and encouraging use of mass transit systems. While mass transit is an environmentally sound idea that should be encouraged, it is not feasible in many rural areas, or for people who must commute to work; thus hybrid cars are a better solution for much of the nation's population.

# Where to put it?

- Introduction-Claim-Thesis
  - Reason-Evidence
  - Reason-Evidence
  - Counter Claim-Rebuttal
  - Conclusion
- 
- Each of these will be one paragraph!

# Be Cautious!

- It is true that counter arguments enrich argumentative writing
- However adding a weak counterargument or overdoing it cause worse results

# Practice:

- Provide a Claim and Counter Argument for the following topics:
  - 1. School Testing: Are students tested to much in school?
  - 2. Grades: Are grades in school necessary?

# Counterclaim and Rebuttal

Make the Counterclaim real!

You will not fool anyone by misrepresenting people who disagree with you; in fact, you will only weaken your own position because you will appear to fear the truth. Bring up a counterclaim that represents a (seemingly) valid objection to your claim.

# Counterclaim and Rebuttal

Never make a counterclaim you cannot rebut!

Bringing up the opposing viewpoint and then failing to show why it is wrong will cause your audience to doubt that your position is the only right one (which is the point of persuasion, after all).

# Counterclaim and Rebuttal

Make it clear that you do not agree with the counterclaim!

Do not allow your audience to think you are simply contradicting yourself. How can you persuade someone to accept your claim if you sound like you do not completely accept it?

# Counterclaim and Rebuttal

Do not repeat a reason you have already given to rebut the counterclaim!

The rebuttal should focus specifically on the objection in the counterclaim. If you merely repeat what you have already said, your audience will assume you cannot think of an effective response.



# Counterclaim and Rebuttal

You are allowed to have more than one rebuttal!

The more reasons you can give to show that the counterclaim is wrong, the better.