

# Pedagogish Infobase

## Some Key Terms for Writing Papers

Comments on your papers can be confusing—*Your topic isn't clear. Where's your thesis? How does this statement contribute to your argument? What is your evidence for this claim? You need to cite the source of this quote!*

What does it all mean? Here are brief explanations of some key terms.

<b>Topic</b>	The general area of your paper; for example: <u>the cultural system of Alaska Natives.</u>
<b>Thesis</b>	Concise statement of your main contention; for example:  <i>The historical traumas suffered by Alaska Natives throughout U.S. history continue to affect the Alaska native community in significant ways, resulting in a complex array of ongoing social, cultural, and health care challenges.</i>
<b>Argument</b>	Connected series of statements that support your thesis and contribute to achieving the overall goals and objectives of your paper.
<b>Claim</b>	A statement of something as a fact or an assertion of something as true; for example:  <i>Alaska Natives often experience difficulty finding health care providers who are sensitive to their cultural needs once they leave their traditional communities and move to larger urban centers.</i>
<b>Evidence</b>	The published data or expert opinion that you cite to support your claims; for example:  <i>The proportion of non-White nurses increased from 21% in 1990 to 33% in 1997. (California Department of Consumer Affairs, BRN, 1999).</i>
<b>Source</b>	Where your evidence comes from; for example: journal articles, books, statistical databases, websites.

The **Pedagogish Infobase** includes many other Infosheets that can help you with your writing assignment. *The Infobase includes one or more Infosheets on each of the key terms in the table above.*