**Unit 2 Handout 4: Writing: Making A Claim**

**A. Making a Claim**

What is a claim? In academic writing, a claim is usually an idea/argument that the author makes and back up evidence that supports it. In the majority of papers, you will need to make some sort of claim and use evidence to support it, and your ability to do this well will separate your papers from those of students who see assignments as mere accumulations of fact and detail.

Multiple Choice Question:

When making a claim, you are…

1. Making an argument that is support by evidence
2. Restating a fact from the text
3. Writing about someone else’s opinion
4. Writing about the things you own

**B. What’s the Author’s Claim**

Whether a video game is on a handheld device, the internet or the television, too much gaming is a bad thing. Video game addiction is problematic for kids and there are many signs that show the negative effects. If young people are constantly thinking s about the next time they will play a video game, that is a sign that they are addicted. If they give up other hobbies that they used to love, that is also a problem. Many kids who choose to spend all their free time playing video games will make up ways to play the game instead of interacting with others. Quitting sports teams or clubs, refusing to go outside to play with friends, and choosing to stay home from birthday parties are all signs that video games have taken over child’s focus. In addition to negative behaviors, there are health consequences from playing too many video games. If video game players skip meals or lose sleep because they stayed up too late playing games, this can negatively impact their health. Sitting in front of a game for more than two hours a day instead of getting up and being active can result in childhood obesity. In addition, backaches, headaches, and strained eyes can be caused by too many video games.

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| *What is the author’s message?* | *What does the author want me to believe after reading the passage?* |
| *Why did the author write this?* | *What is the topic of the author’s writing?* |

*What is the claim the author is trying to make about playing video games?*

*What are two reasons does the author give to backup/support their claim? (List 2)*

**C. Making My Claim**

*Read the passage below. Using the handouts, and prior knowledge, make a claim. Fill out the graphic organizer to help develop what your writing and claim will be about.*

According to a 2008 study by Lucie Laurian titled *Environmental Injustice in France*, "towns with high proportions of immigrants tend to host more hazardous sites, even controlling for population size, income, [and] degree of industrialization of the town and region".In the case of towns which have the highest percentage of residents who are born abroad, there is a significantly higher likelihood for there to be polluted sites nearby. As stated by Laurian, The quarter of towns with the highest proportion of persons born abroad (more than 6.3%) are, for example, three times more likely to have illegal dumps, five times more likely to have Seveso ["sites where dangerous, toxic or flammable materials are stored permanently or temporarily"]and seven times more likely to have Basol ["sites where (1) soil and/or groundwater are either known to be polluted or potentially polluted; (2) pose or can pose risks to persons or the environment; and (3) are the object of public intervention"]sites than the quarter of towns with the lowest proportion of persons born abroad (less than 1.8%).

*Your claim:*

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| *What do I want my paragraph to be about?* | *What do I want the reader to believe after reading my paragraph?* |
| *Why am I writing this?* | *What is the topic of my writing?* |

*Bonus Question:*

*What lenses could be applied to this reading?*