

Term: “Clarified in Scope”

Definition: If an assertion is “clarified in scope,” then the statement limits the scope of the argument by providing context. Typically, this means that the assertion answers one or more of these questions: how, when, why, in what circumstances. This might also include defining unclear terms or being more specific.

An assertion that is clarified in scope is almost always defensible. However, assertions that are not defensible are typically not clarified in scope. Thus, one concrete way to make assertions defensible is to teach students how to write an assertion that is clarified in scope.

One way to add it

- Ø Semi-colon + introductory phrase / transition
- Ø A second sentence in the assertion
- Ø Transition words like: indeed, specifically, this is to say that, in other words...

Exemplar: Shakespeare’s use of light and dark imagery illustrates Romeo’s love life; indeed, the light, derived from Juliet, pieces the darkness of his broken heart and reignites his passion.

Another way to add it

- o Sentence template:
 - o The bourgeois _____ (active verb) _____ by / through _____ (everything else) _____ ; this _____ (noun) _____ led to the bourgeois’ downfall because _____ (everything else) _____ .
 - o Exemplar: Market demands sparked the development of the bourgeois’ Modern Industry; this expansion and greed led to the bourgeois’ downfall because they did not consider the unintended consequences of their choices.

Example

“Market demands ignited the unchecked development of the bourgeois’ Modern Industry; this unbridled expansion and greed led to the bourgeois’ destruction because they did not consider the unintended consequences of their choices.”

“The bourgeoisie provided the proletariats with the tools and weapons needed to fight their enemies, the absolute monarchy, the landowners, and the non-industrial bourgeoisie; the knowledge and power given to the proletariats led to the bourgeoisie downfall because they used it to revolt against the bourgeoisie.”

(continued)

Non-Example

“First off, a determined leader is needed to run a functional revolution.”

Analysis: This assertion does not explain WHY this is true. Thus, since it is not clarified in scope it is also not defensible.

Assertion: “The use of the N word is harmful to society.”

Clarification: “In other words, the continual use of the “N” word or any of its derivations will have a negative impact on future generations by allowing it to continually belittle the African American people and their ancestry who were attacked and discriminated against through that word.”above and beyond and incorporating “new” ideas into their paper.