

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.