



## Read:

- ★ [“Troublemakers”](#) by Malcolm Gladwell, *The New Yorker*, 2/6/06
- ★ [“Small Change”](#) by Malcolm Gladwell, *The New Yorker*, 10/4/10
- ★ [“A Long Road Home”](#) by Gillian B. White, *The Atlantic*, 8/3/15
- ★ [“Why Facts Don’t Change Our Minds”](#) by Elizabeth Kolbert, *The New Yorker*, 2/27/17

For each article note:

- The main argument the author is making
- The supporting or subclaims he/ she makes to build the argument
- The evidence (proof) he/ she gives to support that argument
- Any counterarguments presented and how the author responds to them

**\*You may make a chart in any design you want to organize your observations and thinking.**

### Claims

A claim is the author’s main point. It is also known as the *argument* or *thesis* (There are often subclaims: ideas/ reasons the author uses to support his main argument.)

- A claim must be argumentative. When a writer makes a claim, he is arguing for a certain interpretation or understanding of his subject.
- A claim can be substantiated with research, evidence, testimony, and academic reasoning.

### Counterarguments

- An opposing perspective, idea, or theory supported by evidence

### Evidence/ Support

- Information used as proof to support a claim or thesis (data, quotes, etc.)
  - Credibility - the degree to which a source is believable and trustworthy (from whom or where is this evidence taken?)
  - There may be multiple pieces of evidence used to support one claim.



## Watch:

- [“Are athletes really getting faster, better, stronger?”](#) | David Epstein, TED Talks, Apr 2014
- [“Your body language shapes who you are”](#) | Amy Cuddy, TED Talks, Oct 2012
- [“Inside the mind of a master procrastinator”](#) Tim Urban, TED Talks, Mar 2016
- [“The curly fry conundrum: Why social media “likes” say more than you might think”](#) Jennifer Golbeck, TED Talks, Apr 2014

For each talk note:

- The main argument the speaker is making
- How the information in the presentation is organized to support the argument
- What makes this presentation effective

**\*You may make a chart in any design you want to organize your observations and thinking.**

**\*\*Students also taking AP English III will be able to combine this summer assignment with the English assignment. You only need to read 4 of the essays from *50 Essays*.**