**Claims** are a crucial part of your writing because they shape your argument and establish your position. Well-crafted claims allow you to explore complexity and establish trust with your readers.

**Let's review the three types of claims:**

A **CLAIM OF FACT**identifies what you see as a problem or circumstance that exists, has existed or will exist.

A **CLAIM OF VALUE** is your evaulation of what you see as a problem or circumstance that exists, has existed or will exist.

A **CLAIM OF POLICY**states what you believe should happen in response to a problem or circumstance that exists, has existed or will exist.

Interestingly, *claims of fact*are different from *facts*.

Let's look at examples of this difference:

**FACT**:

According to the World Health Organization, the US ranks 33rd in the world for life expectancy.

**CLAIM OF FACT**:

Without universal health care, the US will continue to slip down the international ranking of life expectancy.

See how the **FACT** is a statistic? I can point to where I got it; it's made of research and equations. (Of course, research and equations are not infallible, but they are a pretty solid method we use to gain knowledge.)

But the **CLAIM OF FACT** is not a statistic. It is about a problem the writer sees in the future, and the cause of that problem. Not only can this claim be supported by statistics and other kinds of evidence, it can be debated.

Here is another **CLAIM OF FACT:**

Creating a system of universal health care is a job more suited for private business than it is for government.

We know this is a claim of fact because it identifies what the writer sees as a situation that exists. I can be supported by facts, and it can be debated.

Now let's try a **CLAIM OF VALUE**:

Because we have allowed insurance companies to enact unethical business practices, Americans find themselves increasingly unable to access or afford heath care; a deplorable situation for a country so wealthy.

We know this is a **CLAIM OF VALUE** because of the words "unethical" and "deplorable." These terms make it clear that the writer is evaluating the situation.

Finally, we will add a **CLAIM OF POLICY:**

Because of contract restrictions that limited the choices for who this administration could hire to build the Obamacare website, the website isn't built well enough to withstand the amount of traffic it has had. Such red tape must be removed from the process so that the federal government is free to hire the best IT contractors it can find, rather than the best it is allowed to hire.

The first sentence above is a claim of fact. It's identifying a situation, a problem and its cause. The second sentence is a claim of policy. A few things clue us in: the word "must," and the call for an action in response to the problem.