4.11: The Focus of This Chapter

Good critical thinkers, those who desire constructive conflict resolution, need to focus their argument around a clear, correctly worded claim. In this chapter, we focused on:

• A claim is an unbiased statement, worded against the status quo.
• There are only two sides to the argument. You are either for the claim or against the claim.
• The side of the claim you support directs the burdens or obligations you have in the argument.
• If you allow the burdens to be switched, you can easily be manipulated.