

Sample Argument Structure

Note: Each of these arguments will require evidence (with cited sources).

- I. **Your main claim:** A science degree is a better preparation for teaching high school science than an education degree.
- II. **Opposed position:** An education degree is a better preparation for teaching high school science than a science degree.
 - A. **Opposed position's support:** An education degree teaches a high school teacher how to use effective teaching methods.
 - B. **Your counterargument:** Some studies suggest that the coursework for education degrees ignores the most effective teaching methods.
- III. **Opposed position:** The best-prepared high school science teachers have both science degrees and education degrees.
 - A. **Opposed position's support:** High school science teachers should be experts in both the material they teach (science) and the method of teaching (education).
 - B. **Your counterargument:** Getting two degrees takes more money and time than a high school teacher can afford.
- IV. **Position you agree with (taken from one of your sources):** A science degree is a better preparation for teaching high school science than an education degree.
 - A. **Your source's support for the position:** Expertise in the subject material (science) makes a greater difference in students learning than expertise in educational methods.
- V. **Subclaim (part of your support for your main claim):** Experts in relevant subject material (science) are more respected by students and their parents than experts in educational methods.
 - A. (*Warrant/assumption that connects this subclaim to the main claim:* Gaining the respect of students and their parents is an important part of being prepared for teaching high school science.)
 - B. **Your support for the subclaim:** College students and their parents usually have greater respect for professors (experts in relevant subject material, but usually without education degrees) than high school students and their parents have for high school teachers (who often have education degrees, but usually not advanced degrees in the subjects they teach).
- VI. **Conclusion**
 - A. **Restated argument:** A science degree is a better preparation for teaching high school science than an education degree because:
 1. Most high school teachers cannot afford to get two advanced degrees.
 2. Education programs do not teach the most effective teaching methods (according to some studies).
 3. Students whose teachers are experts in the subject material (science) learn more than students whose teachers are experts at methods of teaching (education).
 4. Students and their parents respect experts in the subject material (science) more than they respect experts at methods of teaching (education).
 - B. **Significance and impact:** Requirements and pay incentives for science teachers in public high schools prioritize education degrees, but they should prioritize science degrees.