

Central Claim Development: Extending Your Position & Specifying Your Elements

Consider the following Central Claim:

F.T. Marinetti's "Futurist Manifestoes" show a sense of violence in the modern world through analogies, tone and imagery.

We have all the necessary components of a central claim: a FOCUS (Marinetti's Futurist Manifestoes), ELEMENTS of analysis (analogies, tone and imagery), and POSITION (a sense of violence in the modern world). However, notice how the central claim isn't very challenging or compelling (i.e. who would disagree?). Here are some strategies for developing a more argumentative central claim:

1) Consider the **relationship** of your elements of analysis to your position and whether it sets up a strong logic that shows how your elements *produce* your position and rearrange accordingly:

F.T. Marinetti's "Futurist Manifestoes" analogies, tone and imagery imply a sense of violence in the modern world.

2) Check the **verb** (if there is one) and consider utilizing a stronger one:

F.T. Marinetti's "Futurist Manifestoes" analogies, tone and imagery *reveal*...

3) Specify your **elements** of analysis a little further with a modifier or adjective:

F.T. Marinetti's "Futurist Manifestoes" mechanical analogies, insistent tone and technical imagery *reveal*...

4) Be sure that your position is telling us the **importance** of its issues. Perhaps consider bringing in a social or cultural **issue** to enhance the position:

F.T. Marinetti's "Futurist Manifestoes" mechanical analogies, insistent tone and technical imagery *reveal* a sense of violence in the modern world due to a dominance of masculinity.

5) Consider a larger **context** or **contrast** ("although" clause) that might add to the position:

F.T. Marinetti's "Futurist Manifestoes" mechanical analogies, insistent tone and technical imagery *reveal* a sense of violence in the modern world and link dominant masculinity as essential to the Industrial Revolution and the capitalist drive for conflict.

Notice now we have a FOCUS and ELEMENTS that lead to a stronger POSITION with key terms ("dominance" and "masculinity") that we can maintain in our argument and a context to develop in my introduction and return to in my conclusion (Industrial Revolution and Capitalism).