

Clarification Questions: Evidence and Credibility

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Title: *The Gateway Experience* (3 units)

Evidence is anything used to support a claim or an assertion. Above all, evidence needs to be relevant.

- I. Evidence
 - a. Examples
 - b. Statistics
 - c. Tangible Objects
 - d. Testimony
 - e. Social Consensus

Credibility speaks to confidence in the evidence related to an individual. *Personal Judgment* means your personal judgment of an individual (it's relatively subjective because it's highly content-sensitive). *Formal Basis* means a reasonable person's assessment of an individual (it's relatively objective because there is a generally-accepted reference standard that can be used). *Types of Sources* influence the confidence you have in either Personal Judgment or Formal Basis.

- II. Credibility
 - a. Personal Judgment
 - i. Competence (Ability)
 - ii. Trustworthiness (Reliability)
 - iii. Goodwill (Altruism)
 - iv. Dynamism (Energy)
 - b. Formal Basis
 - i. Authority
 - ii. Clear Basis for Reasoning
 - iii. Eager Evidence (Bias/Vested Interest)
 - iv. Reluctant Evidence (Opposition)
 - v. Representativeness
 - c. Types of Sources
 - i. Witness (First-person)
 - ii. Background/Training (Education)
 - iii. Experience (History)