

QUALIFYING CLAIMS

Oftentimes, a claim is meant to be a bold, opinionated statement which a college writer uses as a foundation for their argument. However, having a claim which is too bold and/or too strong may be detrimental. Therefore, it is customary and useful to qualify or quantify the claim in order to allow the statement itself to be completely true.

EX:

Taxes on imports are too high.

In reviewing this claim, it is possible to ask many questions to the contrary, such as: What is too high? Are there other factors which contribute to high prices, aside from taxes? Do some items have higher taxes than others?

Therefore, in order to make the claim more acceptable to the audience, and slightly open to other "real" possibilities/contention, the word "Oftentimes" is added.

EX:

Oftentimes, taxes on imports are too high.

This slight modification of the claim helps to ensure that the claim can accept some wholes in the argument (since most arguments have holes); in addition, this qualification helps to assure the reader that the author understands that there are multiple points of view on the subject.

Other qualifiers/quantifiers include:

Sometimes,

Most often,

More than often,

Oftentimes,

Some,

Most,

Most likely,

etc.