Hamlett's Three Claims Description:
Fact Claim, Value Claim, & Policy Claim

A Fact Claim is an argumentative research paper which makes a <u>quantifiable</u> assertion; in other words, it is an argument (claim) about a measurable topic (fact).

A Value Claim is an argumentative research paper which makes a <u>qualifiable</u> assertion; in other words, it is an argument (claim) about a moral, aesthetic, or philosophical topic (value).

A Policy Claim is an argumentative research paper which makes an assertion about a <u>course of action</u> the reader should take; in other words, it is an argument (claim) about an actionable topic (policy).

> If an instructor chooses to assign the three claim papers, it is suggested that the papers be assigned in the order of fact claim, value claim, policy claim since value claims inevitably incorporate fact claims and since policy claims, to be effective, must employ face and value claims within them. Thus, value claims tend to be longer than fact claims and policy claims tend to be longer than value claims. In each of the three claims, but especially in the policy claim, a concise definition of audience and purpose is essential.

<u>Examples</u>:

Fact Claim: The death penalty does not deter crime.
Value Claim: Since it is inequitable administered, capital punishment is unjust.
Policy Claim: Because it does not deter crime, because it is inequitably administered, and because it is unjust, the death penalty should be abandoned by civilized societies.

Fact Claim: Marijuana is less harmful to health than smoking is.
Value Claim: The prejudices about the social conditions that led to current marijuana legislation are outdated.
Policy Claim: Because the social conditions that give rise to current marijuana legislation no longer exist and because of the potential medical and financial benefits of its decriminalization, lawmakers should reconsider the legal status of cannabis.

Fact Claim: Changes in land use patterns in southern California over the past 100 years have rendered the Salton Sea the single most important waterway in the West for migrating waterfowl.
Value Claim: The presence and availability of wildlife enriches human life.
Policy Claim: Congress must pass effective legislation to ensure the restoration and continued maintenance of the Salton Sea so that loss of avifauna does not diminish human existence.

Fact Claim: Public school performance in the United States has plummeted over the past 20 years.
Value Claim: It is unfair to force taxpayers to contribute to a school system that does not serve them.
Policy Claim: Following the Canadian system, Congress should form a system for public funding of religious schools for families that opt out of the public school system.

Fact Claim: Violence on television influences children to behave violently.
Value Claim: Although the financial benefit for networks is great, it is ultimately counterproductive to air violent television shows.
Policy Claim: Because violence on television is harmful to all strata of American society, strict guidelines for permissible content of television shows should be enacted.

Fact Claim: Publicly funded art is the most expensive art in the world.
Value Claim: Taxpayer funding for public art produces a low yield both physically and spiritually.
Policy Claim: Congress should discontinue funding for the NEA since public art produces benefits that are vastly outweighed by its cost.

Abad's Three Claims Description:
Fact Claim, Value Claim, & Policy Claim

For the three essays, you will pursue a single topic throughout the three papers, using each successive claim to build on the previous claim and to anticipate the next claim.

A Fact Claim:

A fact claim is a quantifiable assertion, based on objectively-verifiable information that asserts a condition has existed, exists, or will exist.

A Value Claim:

A value claim is a qualitative assertion that makes an argument about a moral, aesthetic, or philosophical topic. Some claims of value are simply expressions of personal preference, but many can be defended or attacked on the basis of criteria that measure worth. You may argue the definition or relevance of the criteria, or you may agree with the criteria but argue how well it is met.

A Policy Claim:

A policy claim is an argument that makes an assertion about a course of action that should be taken. It shows the need for a solution, makes a clear proposal that includes a specific list of reasons, supports this proposal with appeals to logic and/or emotion, and demonstrates consideration of opposing viewpoints.

Sample:

Fact Claim: The death penalty does not deter crime.

Value Claim: Since it is inequitably administrated, capital punishment is unjust.

Policy Claim: Because it does not deter crime, because it is inequitably administered, and because it is unjust, the death penalty should be abandoned by civilized societies.

Fact Claim: Marijuana is less harmful to health than smoking is.

Value Claim: The prejudices about the social conditions that led to current marijuana legislation are outdated.

Policy Claim: Because the social conditions that gave rise to current marijuana legislation no longer exist and because of the potential medical and financial benefits if its decriminalization, lawmakers should reconsider the legal status of cannabis.