

## NATURAL SUPPORT

Any form of proof which is naturally-occurring, naturally found, or what we would refer to as evidence can be deemed natural support.

There are many forms of natural support, although the most common forms include:

Indisputable Physical Evidence  
Indisputable Physical Facts  
Historical Facts  
Sworn Testimony  
Expert Testimony/Authorities on Topics  
Documents/Texts (Fact-Filled)  
Scientific Analyses  
Laws/Statutes  
Codes  
Rules  
Information retrieved from Instrumentation/Data  
Common Practices/Routines of a Trade (accepted as customary)  
Anecdotal Evidence (things observed routinely by individuals or groups)  
Personal Accounts (things observed or experienced once) and other structures

EX1:

Claim (Personal Opinion):  
Daniel is a not a nice person.

Support (Proof):  
Daniel broke Shelley's doll (he grabbed it and ripped its head right off).  
Daniel stole two pencils from Jacob yesterday when he was not looking.  
Marjorie witnessed these things happening during class. (WITNESS)  
Stealing is wrong, and it is against the school rules and the law. (CODE)  
The younger children on the bus have told me that Daniel threatens them and teases them. (ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE)

EX2:

Claim (Speculative Opinion):  
Local rivers around the this County must be polluted.

Support (Proof):  
Water samples show clear evidence of lead, mercury, and other contaminants.  
(PHYSICAL EVIDENCE AND SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS)  
Donna Jenison, a local resident who drinks the water, has a son with birth defects  
(ANECDOTAL EVIDENCE)  
James Ryerson, another local resident, has observed a few boats and other vehicles  
dumping fuel and oil into the rivers. (WITNESS)