

Principle of Clarity

When arguing to persuade, the language we use is important. One way to lose an argument is when our words are not clear. The Principle of Clarity says that all the language is clear and not open to multiple interpretations. You want people to understand your points, not misunderstand what you are arguing.

Example 1

What I want in this argument

I want to go out

Arguments

I have done most of my homework, I will be back later,
I am going with some friends

Conclusion

I want to go to out, but I am not being clear in my speech. I must be hiding something.

Be clear in your terms.

Practice

Underline the terms in these sentences that are not clear. Rewrite them with clear terms and meanings.

1. I want money so I can buy something.
2. Give me the car so I can pick up a friend.
3. If I am allowed to have that phone, I will use it everyday.
4. If I go to the ballgame, I will be home sometime.