

The legal drinking age in the U.S. should be lowered (claim) to eighteen years old (qualifier) because that's the age we are considered legal adults in this country (reasoning). A legal adult is someone who is allowed to make his or her own decisions (warrant/definition). At eighteen, we can enlist in the military, vote, get married, take out loans and go into debt (backing). These are all actions we are legally allowed to engage in without parental consent (backing).

The age we become adults in this country is eighteen, just as it is in many other countries. In the UK for instance, the legal drinking is eighteen and instances of binge drinking and alcohol poisoning are not any higher than they are here for the same 18-21 age bracket (evidence).

Some might assert that it is unsafe to consume alcohol before a person's cognitive development is complete (rebuttal). In response, we can say that there is an established body of scientific research that clearly supports the conclusion that it is actually safe to consume alcohol at younger ages (response).