Toulmins model

**Toulmin’s model of argumentation is a useful tool for strengthening your academic communication.**  
The model can be used both to construct individual arguments in your paper and to structure the entire paper as an overarching argument, helping to clarify the red thread (the main line of reasoning).

By working with Toulmin’s model, it becomes easier to identify gaps in both your own and others’ reasoning. You can therefore use the model on your own paper, text, or presentation, or as a basis for peer feedback to find weaknesses in a fellow student’s argumentation.

The model consists of three core elements: **claim, data (or grounds), and warrant**. Together, these three elements form an argument. In addition, there are three supporting elements: **qualifier, backing, and rebuttal**.

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| **CLAIM**  *What is your main point*  *Which position are you arguing for?*  *What do you want the audience to be convinced of?* |
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| **GROUNDS**  *What is the specific reason your claim should be accepted?*  *What is the claim based on?*  *What evidence or documentation supports your claim?* |
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| **WARRANT**  *What general principle or commonly accepted viewpoint justifies accepting the data? What method or reasoning helps support your claim?* |
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| **REBUTTAL**  *What reservations should be made regarding the general validity of the warrant? In what cases is the warrant not applicable? When does your claim not hold true?* |
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| **BACKING**  *What documentation supports the warrant? Have similar studies been conducted with similar results?* |
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| **QUALIFIER**  *How confident are you that the claim is true? In relation to the rebuttal and backing, how strong is your claim?* |
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