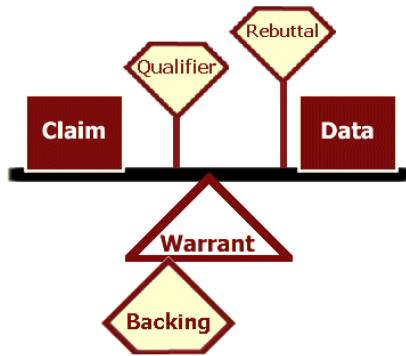


Toulmin's Model of Argument



How to use this worksheet:

Toulmin's model is an effective tool to help you question the essential elements of your own or any other argument.

Use a separate sheet of paper to analyze each argument. Once you've identified the specific parts of the arguments, compare the claims, the data, the warrants (along with any qualifiers, rebuttals, or backing). Note where arguments are similar or different, weaker or stronger, supported by more or less (or by convincing or unconvincing) data.

Use another sheet of the paper to plan your own argument. Decide on a claim that is supported by the data and the warrants you have discovered through your research. Knowing the elemental structure of your argument is an essential step toward producing an effective argument.

1.) List the claim(s) made in the argument (conclusion(s) or point made by the argument).

2.) Record the data used to support each claim (supporting evidence or facts).

3.) Identify the warrants. (What assumptions make the data support the claims?) Are these warrants implicit (implied) or explicit (clearly stated)?

4.) Record any backing given for the warrant(s) (Information that connects the data to the claim; why the evidence supports the claim).

5.) List any qualifiers (Tells us how strong the claim is, is this always true or just sometimes).

6.) List any rebuttals (these are the exceptions to the claim).

7.) What is your overall evaluation of the strength or weakness of this argument? Give specific reasons to support your evaluation?
