The Toulmin Model of Argumentation

Thesis Statement

Simply put, here is the formula:

Because ______ (data/support)__________, therefore ________ (claim/assertion)_____, since

__________ (warrant)______________.

“In analyzing an argument, [students] fill in the first blank with the data or support, the second with the assertion or claim, and the third with what Toulmin calls the warrant. A warrant—usually tacit or unspoken—is the assumption necessarily shared by the speaker/writer and the audience. It establishes the logical connection between the data and the claim. With this formula, a claim seems not merely an assertion but rather the logical conclusion that must be reached after testing evidence that supports a belief.

Because such an approach helps students understand the elements of an argument, it is therefore a valuable pedagogical technique, since greater understanding among our students is a desirable quality.

You will notice the Toulmin model at work in that last “sentence” (Shea and Scanlon 198).


Because (name of author) experienced whatever, he/she wrote (give title), in order to or therefore

data/support                                                  claim/assertion  warrant

accomplish……..