

# **argumentation**

27th March 2020 - Skype session

# argument X argumentation

- quarrel
- everyday life
- no clear structure

X

- critical thinking process that defines / clarifies / advocates in order to persuade sb to make a certain decision
- a CLAIM supported by reasoning / evidence
- a few subclaims make a claim, a few claims make a case
- legal and academic sphere
- language of appropriate register

# Toulmin model



# Toulmin model

**CLAIM** - the argument being made (conclusion of the reasoning)

**GROUND**S - the data and facts offered to support the claim

**WARRANT** - logically connecting the grounds to the claim

**BACKING** - supporting the warrant

**QUALIFIER** - stating the strength of the claim

**REBUTTAL** - exception to the claim

# Toulmin model - task

In the discussion forum: Write a sentence / short paragraph according to Toulmin model related to the COVID-19 situation...

# logical fallacies in argumentation

**strawman**  
Misrepresenting someone's argument to make it easier to attack.  
A frequent fallacy is to exaggerate, minimize or otherwise misrepresent the original argument to make it easier to attack. For example, someone might say, "I support the death penalty for capital offenses, but I support the death penalty for capital offenses only if the person is guilty of a capital offense." The strawman would be to say, "I support the death penalty for capital offenses." This is a distortion of the original argument.

**false cause**  
Assuming that a real or perceived relationship between things means that one is the cause of the other.  
This fallacy often comes in the form of "X caused Y" or "Y caused X" without any evidence. For example, "I wore my lucky socks and I won the lottery, so my lucky socks caused me to win the lottery." This is a fallacy because there is no evidence that wearing lucky socks causes one to win the lottery.

**appeal to emotion**  
Manipulating an emotional reaction to place it as a valid or compelling argument.  
Manipulating an emotional reaction to place it as a valid or compelling argument. For example, "I'm scared, so I'm afraid of heights." This is a fallacy because fear is not a valid argument for being afraid of heights.

**the fallacy fallacy**  
Assuming a claim to be necessarily wrong because a fallacy has been mentioned.  
Assuming a claim to be necessarily wrong because a fallacy has been mentioned. For example, "I'm not a doctor, but I know what's best for you." This is a fallacy because not being a doctor does not make the claim wrong.

**slippery slope**  
Assuming that if one allows a to happen, then Z will consequently happen too, therefore A should not happen.  
Assuming that if one allows a to happen, then Z will consequently happen too, therefore A should not happen. For example, "If we allow gay marriage, then we will have to allow polygamy, and then we will have to allow incest." This is a fallacy because allowing gay marriage does not necessarily lead to allowing polygamy or incest.

**ad hominem**  
Attacking your opponent's character or personal traits as an attempt to undermine their argument.  
Attacking your opponent's character or personal traits as an attempt to undermine their argument. For example, "I don't trust you because you're a liar." This is a fallacy because attacking someone's character does not make their argument wrong.

**tu quoque**  
Avoiding having to engage with criticism by turning it back on the accuser - answering criticism with criticism.  
Avoiding having to engage with criticism by turning it back on the accuser. For example, "You say I'm wrong, but you're wrong too." This is a fallacy because attacking someone else does not make your argument right.

**personal incredulity**  
Saying that because one finds something difficult to understand, it is therefore false.  
Saying that because one finds something difficult to understand, it is therefore false. For example, "I don't understand quantum physics, so it must be wrong." This is a fallacy because something being difficult to understand does not make it false.

**ambiguity**  
Using double meanings or ambiguities of language to mislead or misrepresent the truth.  
Using double meanings or ambiguities of language to mislead or misrepresent the truth. For example, "The car is green." This is a fallacy because "green" can mean the color or the state of being drunk.

**burden of proof**  
Saying that the burden of proof lies not with the person making the claim, but with someone else to disprove.  
Saying that the burden of proof lies not with the person making the claim, but with someone else to disprove. For example, "I'm a wizard, and you have to prove it." This is a fallacy because the burden of proof is on the person making the claim.

**genetic**  
Judging something good or bad on the basis of where it originates, or from whom it came.  
Judging something good or bad on the basis of where it originates, or from whom it came. For example, "This is a good idea because it came from a genius." This is a fallacy because the origin of an idea does not make it good or bad.

**the gambler's fallacy**  
Believing that "hot" and/or "due" events or statistically independent phenomena such as roulette wheel spins.  
Believing that "hot" and/or "due" events or statistically independent phenomena such as roulette wheel spins. For example, "I've lost five times in a row, so I'm due to win." This is a fallacy because each spin of the roulette wheel is independent of the previous spin.

**bandwagon**  
Appealing to popularity or the fact that many people do something as an attempted form of validation.  
Appealing to popularity or the fact that many people do something as an attempted form of validation. For example, "Everyone is doing it, so it must be right." This is a fallacy because popularity does not make something right.

**appeal to authority**  
Saying that because an authority thinks something is true, therefore it is true.  
Saying that because an authority thinks something is true, therefore it is true. For example, "My doctor says I should eat this, so it must be good." This is a fallacy because an authority's opinion does not make something true.

**composition/division**  
Assuming that what's true about one part of something has to be applied to all, or other parts of it.  
Assuming that what's true about one part of something has to be applied to all, or other parts of it. For example, "The car is made of metal, so it must be heavy." This is a fallacy because a car is made of many different materials, not just metal.

**no true scotsman**  
Making what could be called an appeal to justify as a way to dismiss relevant criticisms or flaws of an argument.  
Making what could be called an appeal to justify as a way to dismiss relevant criticisms or flaws of an argument. For example, "This is a true scotsman, so it must be right." This is a fallacy because the definition of a scotsman can be changed to fit the argument.

**black-or-white**  
Where two alternative states are presented as the only possibilities, when in fact more possibilities exist.  
Where two alternative states are presented as the only possibilities, when in fact more possibilities exist. For example, "It's either black or white." This is a fallacy because there are many other colors.

**begging the question**  
A circular argument in which the conclusion is included in the premises.  
A circular argument in which the conclusion is included in the premises. For example, "I'm right because I'm right." This is a fallacy because the conclusion is assumed in the premises.

**appeal to nature**  
Making the argument that because something is "natural" it is therefore valid, justified, reasonable, good, or ideal.  
Making the argument that because something is "natural" it is therefore valid, justified, reasonable, good, or ideal. For example, "It's natural, so it must be good." This is a fallacy because something being natural does not make it good.

**anecdotal**  
Using personal experience or an isolated example instead of a general argument, especially to dismiss statistics.  
Using personal experience or an isolated example instead of a general argument, especially to dismiss statistics. For example, "I know someone who got rich from this, so it must be a good idea." This is a fallacy because one person's experience does not make something a good idea.

**the texas sharpshooter**  
Cherry-picking data clusters to suit an argument, or finding a pattern, but it is a post-hoc fallacy.  
Cherry-picking data clusters to suit an argument, or finding a pattern, but it is a post-hoc fallacy. For example, "I shot a target and then drew a bullseye around the hole I hit." This is a fallacy because the bullseye was drawn after the shot.

**middle ground**  
Saying that a compromise, or middle point, between two positions must be the truth.  
Saying that a compromise, or middle point, between two positions must be the truth. For example, "Between black and white is grey." This is a fallacy because the middle ground is not necessarily the truth.

**thou shalt not commit logical fallacies**

A logical fallacy is a flaw in reasoning. Strong arguments are void of logical fallacies, while arguments that are weak tend to use logical fallacies to appear stronger than they are. They're like tricks or illusions of thought, and they're often very readily used by politicians, the media, and others to fool people. Don't be fooled! This poster has been designed to help you identify and call out dodgy logic whenever it may wear its ugly, incognito hood. If you see someone committing a logical fallacy online, link them to the relevant fallacy to school them in thinking a young quality@quality.com team.

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**ARGUMENTATIVE - ONE side only**

**INTRO**

- general statement / hook
- elaboration >> scope (can include a definition)
- thesis statement clearly stating the position (one side) of the author

**BODY**

ARGUMENT 1  
FOR OR  
AGAINST

topic sentence  
+ support

ARGUMENT 2  
FOR OR  
AGAINST

topic sentence  
+ support

ARGUMENT 3  
FOR OR  
AGAINST

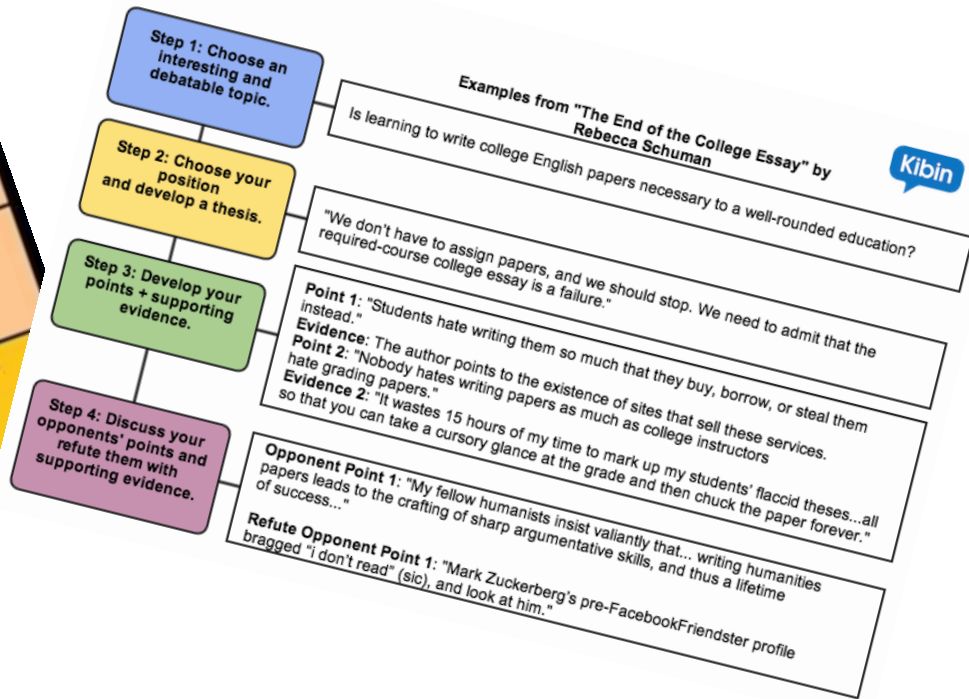
topic sentence  
+ support

**CONCLUSION**

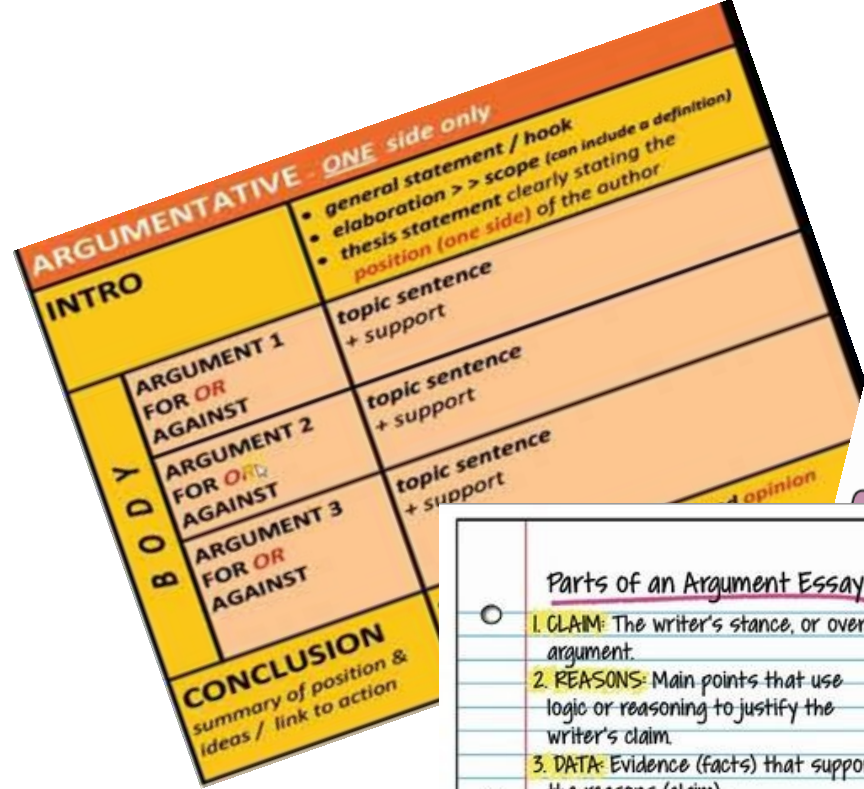
summary of position &  
ideas / link to action

- restate thesis statement and opinion
- summarise ideas
- closing comments/final thoughts

ARGUMENTATIVE - ONE side only		
<b>INTRO</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• general statement / hook</li> <li>• elaboration &gt; scope (can include a definition)</li> <li>• thesis statement clearly stating the position (one side) of the author</li> </ul>	
<b>BODY</b>	ARGUMENT 1 FOR OR AGAINST	topic sentence + support
	ARGUMENT 2 FOR OR AGAINST	topic sentence + support
	ARGUMENT 3 FOR OR AGAINST	topic sentence + support
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restate thesis statement and opinion</li> <li>• summarise ideas</li> <li>• closing comments/final thoughts</li> </ul>	
summary of position & ideas / link to action		







- Parts of an Argument Essay
- 1. **CLAIM:** The writer's stance, or overall argument.
  - 2. **REASONS:** Main points that use logic or reasoning to justify the writer's claim.
  - 3. **DATA:** Evidence (facts) that support the reasons (claim).
  - 4. **JOINT:** The warrant or bridge that connects data to the writer's reasons and claim.
  - 5. **COUNTERCLAIM:** A claim that disagrees with the writer's claim. (The opposition's stance)
  - 6. **REBUTTAL:** Evidence that disputes or disagrees with the counterclaim.

