

## Graphic Organizer for a Toulmin argument

**How to use this organizer:** This organizer is meant to be used for an argumentative essay. Before completing the blanks on the far right, you should have an argumentative thesis and an audience in mind for your essay. Also, you will want to think about whether or not your essay is suited to a Toulmin argument. This type of argument works best for a complex argument where there is no clear right answer. This style of argument also requires a strong understanding of the values and assumptions of the audience to whom the writer is addressing their ideas.

**Tip:** Need to see an example essay using Toulmin argument before you start? Visit: <https://owl.excelsior.edu/argument-and-critical-thinking/organizing-your-argument/organizing-your-argument-sample-toulmin-argument/>

**Before you start, list your audience choice(s) here:**

Components of a Toulmin argument	How you plan to address Toulmin components in your essay
<p><i>A. Introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grab the audience’s attention (often with a memorable scene)</li> <li>• Explain the issue and any needed background or definitions</li> <li>• State a thesis</li> <li>• Qualify or limit the thesis so that it is clear when the thesis does and does not apply</li> <li>• State reasons for the thesis</li> <li>• Overview the points to be covered in the body</li> </ul>	<p><i>A. Introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will grab the audience’s attention by:</li> <li>• I will provide this background information:</li> <li>• My thesis is:</li> <li>• My thesis only applies to these situations:</li> <li>• My reasons are:</li> <li>• The points that I will cover in my essay’s body are:</li> </ul>
<p><i>B. Grounds (evidence for reasons)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For each reason stated in the introduction, offer evidence in support of each reason</li> <li>• You will typically need several paragraphs providing grounds for your reasons</li> </ul>	<p><i>B. Grounds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My first reason is:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evidence I will use to support this reason:</li> </ul> </li> <li>• My second reason is:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evidence I will use to support this reason:</li> </ul> </li> <li>• My third reason is:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Evidence I will use to support this reason:</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>(Note: Continue adding reasons and evidence until your argument is complete)</i></p>
<p><i>C. Warrants (assumptions that explain how grounds and reasons connect)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To discover these assumptions, you can ask this question of each reason: Why is the reason true or of value for your selected audience?</li> </ul>	<p><i>C. Warrants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My audience will find my first reason to be true or of value because they believe:</li> <li>• My audience will find my second reason to be true or of value because they believe:</li> <li>• My audience will find my third reason to be true or of value because they believe:</li> </ul> <p><i>(Note: Continue listing warrants until you’ve covered all your reasons)</i></p>
<p><i>D. Backing (evidence that supports the warrants in box C)</i></p>	<p><i>D. How I will respond to views opposed to my position</i></p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The writer lists evidence related to the warrants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The evidence I have for the warrants in box C is the following:</li> </ul>
<p><i>E. Summary of the conditions for rebuttal</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A fair and complete summary of the views differing from the writer’s view is offered here</li> <li>• Each differing view is then addressed by the writer. The writer can accept or refute the differing view.</li> <li>• Remember, audience members could oppose anything already presented in boxes b through d</li> </ul>	<p><i>E. Summary of the conditions for rebuttal</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what ways does my audience disagree with my ideas in boxes b through d?</li> <li>• How can I address or refute these disagreements? (Remember you can accept some differing views or you can refute differing views.)</li> </ul>
<p><i>F. Conclusion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide the reader with closure</li> <li>• Often re-sums the argument</li> <li>• Ends on a strong note</li> <li>• Often calls for some type of action in response to the thesis</li> </ul>	<p><i>F. Conclusion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I will provide a sense of closure by:</li> <li>• I will summarize these parts of my argument:</li> <li>• The strong note I will end on is:</li> <li>• <i>Optional:</i> I will call for this action:</li> </ul>

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