

# Argumentative Essay Outline Template (Toulmin Format)

## I. Introduction

- Introduce the issue in a way that signals its importance.
- Provide brief context so the reader understands what is at stake.
- State the central claim clearly, making your position explicit.

## II. Grounds (Evidence Supporting the Claim)

- Present your first piece of concrete evidence, such as data, research findings, or documented examples.
- Explain what this evidence shows and why it is relevant to the claim.
- Add additional supporting evidence as needed, keeping each piece distinct and purposeful.

## III. Warrant (Reasoning Behind the Evidence)

- Explain the reasoning that connects your evidence to the main claim.
- Clarify the underlying assumption that makes the evidence meaningful.
- Show why the evidence logically supports your position rather than merely appearing related.

## IV. Backing (Support for the Warrant)

- Provide additional justification for the warrant.
- Use further data, expert insight, or logical explanation to strengthen the reasoning.
- Acknowledge any limits or conditions that affect how strongly the warrant applies.

## V. Counterargument and Qualification

- Present a significant opposing viewpoint fairly and accurately.
- Explain why some readers find this position convincing.
- Respond by showing where the opposing reasoning breaks down or applies only in limited cases.

## VI. Conclusion

- Bring the claim, evidence, and reasoning back together.
- Reaffirm how the grounds and warrants support the central argument.
- End by reinforcing the validity of your position or pointing toward a broader implication.