Toulmin Method and Tocqueville Examples

Vol. 2, Part I, Chapter 13, "The Literary Aspect"

- Works possesses precise polish and technique
- Controlled genres that do not change
- Style and form almost as important as ideas
- Prefers an even, measured, and polite tone
- Tends toward moderate pacing of thoughts and production of works
- Tendency to write only for one another; thus, a falsity and affectation that will alienate the works from common sense and nature
- An aristocratic jargon closed to others
- A love of techniques for their own sakes
- Tendency toward moderation and avoidance of extremes
- Amusement and diversion preferred to intensity or overpowering emotions
- Literary works controlled by aristocratic class
- Almost all are produced by and written for that class
- Aristocracy has a stable membership and stable rules for production
- A hereditary practice of these traditional rules

"Any aristocracy that sets itself entirely apart from the people becomes impotent."

"When a literate people makes this switch, there is always a moment when the literary genius of democracy encounters that of aristocracy and the two seem to want to reign in harmony over the human spirit."

- Regularized form neglected or scorned
- An exaggerated or bizarre style practiced
- Rapid production rather than perfection
- Short texts preferred
- Wit (i.e. amusement) over erudition
- Quick imagination over in-depth exploration
- Works of "savage vigor"

 Literary works regarded as a diversionary pleasure, not a serious undertaking

- Market preference for easily and quickly read works
- No market for scholarly research
- Prefers intense and immediate emotions and truths

- Widespread division of basic knowledge
- Variety of educational levels and cultural attainments
- Works are not hereditary in purpose or practice
- No common understanding or tradition imparted

"In [a democratic] nation, it is therefore difficult to subject literature to strict rules and almost impossible to subject it to permanent ones."

"When a literate people makes this switch, there is always a moment when the literary genius of democracy encounters that of aristocracy and the two seem to want to reign in harmony over the human spirit."

Chapter 15, "Why the Study of Greek and Latin is Particularly Useful in Democratic Societies."

