



DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

Toulmin Analysis

Before writing a Toulmin Analysis, students should be fully familiar with the work they have been instructed to analyze, be it a novel, poem, play, etc. It is impossible to create an original, proper analysis without first-hand knowledge of the topic. While referring to this handout, follow the example argument essay provided at the back of this packet. After reading each step, find the related steps highlighted on the essay.

PROCEDURE

Step 1: Identify the author's claim and decide whether it is explicit or implied. On the sample essay *Voluntourism Does More Harm Than Good*, the author states her claim in the last sentence of the first paragraph. The claim is implicit because the author provides background evidence in the introduction which leads up to her claim and sustains it with logic.

Step 2: Identify all sub-claims and decide whether or not they effectively support the claim. Sub-claims are any examples and forms of evidence that back the claim. For example, in paragraph three of the sample essay, the author makes a sub-claim by stating that voluntourism "is not participatory." On the following page, she goes on to support the sub-claim with evidence from experts in the field and with specific examples from credible sources.

Step 3: Identify all warrants and decide whether or not they effectively support the claim. Warrants are similar to sub-claims, and it can be tricky to distinguish differences between the two. Therefore, think about warrants as assumptions made by the author, commonly accepted beliefs stated as fact, and logical conclusions that are not directly stated within supporting quotes or evidence. For example, the author makes a warrant on page five by claiming that voluntourism does not make "a lasting, poverty-alleviating impact." This is a warrant because it is a *logical conclusion based on evidence*; nowhere in the evidence following the warrant can one directly gather that voluntourism does not make a "poverty-alleviating impact." However, it is a logical conclusion based upon evidence, and it is, therefore, a warrant.

Step 4: Identify any present rebuttal. A rebuttal is a section of an argument where the author acknowledges and briefly discusses one or more of the possible opposing viewpoints.

WRITING PROCESS

Introduction: Begin by providing a brief summary of the subject. If the author uses an identifiable style of argument, mention and clarify what that style is. If any pertinent information about the author is available, include that also. Then, in the thesis statement, summarize the author's claim, state whether or not he/she supported the claim, and state how s/he did or did not support it. For more information on creating a thesis statement, please see the UWC's "Writing a Thesis" handout.

Ex Thesis: "In her essay, *Voluntourism Does More Harm Than Good*, the author claims that short-term mission trips do not alleviate poverty, and she thoroughly supports the claim by quoting relevant experts and providing detailed examples."

Body Paragraphs: There should be a minimum of three paragraphs detailing how the author did or did not support the claim. At least one paragraph should identify all sub-claims; then, one paragraph should identify all warrants; finally, one paragraph should identify the rebuttal. When identifying any of these three components, *provide examples from the text*. Do not merely identify the sub-claims, warrants, and rebuttals, explain whether or not they back the claim.

Ex Topic Sentence: "After making the sub-claim that "voluntourism does not effectively take advantage of existing resources and assets," Redmon goes on to provide a detailed account from the book *Toxic Charity* which provides a real-life scenario explaining this phenomenon."

Identifying the Rebuttal: At least one body paragraph should be dedicated to identifying the author's rebuttal. If a rebuttal is present, explain whether or not it adequately acknowledged the opposing viewpoint.

Ex. "The author briefly acknowledged possible positive impacts voluntourism can have on a community. Although a rebuttal was included, the author could have further investigated and discussed some of the other opposing viewpoints."

Conclusion: The conclusion should summarize all of the supporting evidence of the claim without restating them word-for-word. Likewise, the thesis should be emphasized again but not repeated verbatim. For more information, please see the UWC's "Writing a Conclusion" handout.

Ex: Redmon excellently details the harming effects of voluntourism with relevant evidence.