

## The Toulmin Model

**Claim:** The conclusion of the argument or the statement the speaker wishes the audience to believe.

**Grounds:** The foundation or basis for the claim, the support.

**Warrant:** The reasoning that authorizes the inferential leap from the grounds to the claim.

**Backing:** The support for the warrant.

**Modality:** The degree of certainty with which the advocate makes the claim.

**Rebuttal:** Exceptions that might be offered to the claim

### Example of the Toulmin model:

**Claim:** The Ravens will win the Superbowl this year.

*QUESTION: What are you basing that claim on?*

**Grounds:** They have the best defense in the league.

*QUESTION: Why does the fact that they have the best defense lead you to believe that the team with the best defense will win?*

**Warrant:** The team with the best defense usually wins.

*QUESTION: How can you make this claim?*

**Backing:** The team with the best defense has won each of the last five years.

*QUESTION: How sure are you that the Ravens will win the Superbowl?*

**Modality:** The probability that the Jets will win the Superbowl is 80 percent.

*QUESTION: If you are so confident that the Ravens will win the Superbowl then why don't you mortgage the house and place a huge bet?*

**Rebuttal:** Anything could happen. The Ravens defense might have a lot of injuries.