

## Definition-based argument discussion w/ Toulmin labeling: Assignment Description

Create a **350-word (minimum)** academic discussion in which you make a **thesis argument** that is **definition-based** and well supported with specific examples, reasoning, and defense of your position. Then, label your work with the **Toulmin stages**. I'm calling this assignment a "discussion" because it is not meant to be a full essay, only a short piece of writing in which you're practicing the forms I'll be testing you on in a few weeks in the longer and more formal midterm in-course timed essay. For added practice, you might try giving yourself a time limit of 90 minutes for this exercise as a way of preparing yourself for the midterm, but it's not required.

This exercise will receive brief feedback from me before your exam so that you'll know whether or not you're effectively creating an actual definition-based argument and are correctly identifying the different parts of your argument per the Toulmin framework.

Again, this short argument-based discussion has **two different parts to it**:

First, create your **argument driven discussion** about anything you want. The only requirement is that your thesis is **definition based**.

Then, go back in and **label the parts** of your discussion with at least one each of the **8 Toulmin stages (Claim, Reasoning, Qualifier, Warrant, Backing, Evidence, Rebuttal, Response)**.

The argument you make may be about anything you wish it to be, and you may use whatever sources you wish to support and illustrate your work. There are sample definition-based argument discussions with Toulmin labeling for you to review on our course page at GregTeach.

To help you further prepare for the midterm which will be drawing on these prompts, you may respond to or critique one of the arguments on this [GMAT Sample Questions](#) sheet if you wish. Or, you may make your own argument without using those GMAT sample questions, either is fine. If you use one of the GMAT sample questions, please copy/paste it onto the top of your writing work so I'll know which prompt you're responding to.

### Attribution & Works Cited List:

While you're not required to cite outside sources, if you do you may follow either MLA or APA in-text and reference/works cited list citation conventions to properly attribute those sources, either is fine. You'll find links to both style guides in the **"Quick Resources"** section on our main course page at GregTeach. You'll also find comprehensive instruction and templates for both MLA and APA styles in your *Business Writer's Companion* text to help you.

### Nuts & Bolts:

Please use academic language (**3rd person, present tense**) that has been carefully and repeatedly **edited and proofread** to eliminate ALL sentence errors - poorly proofread work will be returned ungraded for revision.

This assignment is worth 10 points and is due as its own document attachment before class on the date listed on our course page at GregTeach and in iLearn. As always, late, short, or ineffectively proofread work won't be accepted for credit. Please remember to [format your document](#) and [name the file](#) according to the guidelines I've laid out in the course as I can't accept files that are incorrectly formatted or titled.