

SAMPLE DEFINITION-BASED ARGUMENT WITH TOULMIN LABELING

Drinking Saluda Natural Spring Water instead of regular tap water is not a wise investment in good health (**claim**) because the premise of the argument – that Saluda Natural Spring Water contains “essential minerals” and is free of bacteria, and Saluda residents get hospitalized less frequently than the national average – contains **unwarranted** assumptions and logical fallacies (**reasoning**). “Unwarranted” in this instance means that the writer is quite clearly jumping to conclusions that just cannot be made given only what he’s told us here, and we need more data (**warrant/definition**). An unwarranted conclusion at the base of an argument typically (**qualifier**) means that the argument itself is built on faulty, insubstantial evidence, which makes the argument weaker by definition and manifestly unpersuasive (**backing**).