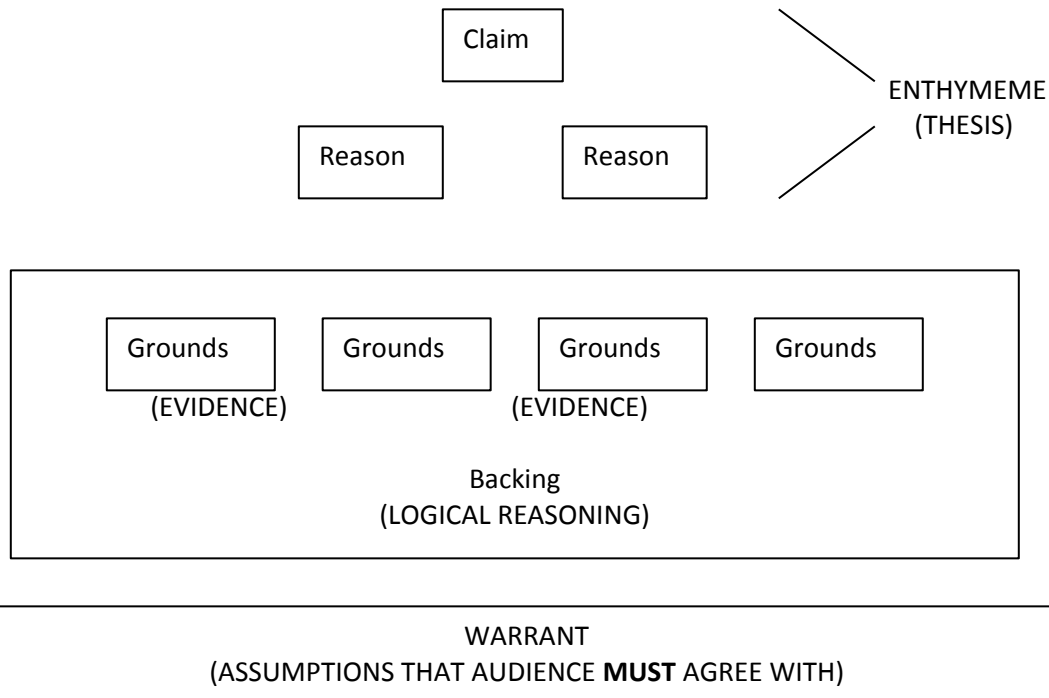


# Toulmin



So, let's say that my claim is "Women should not serve on the front line of the U.S. military."

Reasons could be: 1. Physical strength difference, 2. Psychological differences (general), 3. It is more difficult for a male subordinate to watch a female leader be tortured than male. Thus they are more likely to cooperate with captors if whole group is capture. Bad thing...

Backing/grounds: research that proves the point.

WARRANT: There are fundamental differences in the physical strength of males and females.

What if I think that there are women who can perform the minimal requirements for male soldiers? The argument more or less falls apart. It doesn't work if you can't get your audience to make assumptions with you. You must get them to do just that.

So, you need to back up and explain your assumption—sometimes even outside the topic. In this instance, you might want to explain the muscular and skeletal differences in men and women. Take a few moments and explain why your assumption works and then apply that principle to the subject/thesis statement.

You must analyze your audience to know where you need to start. If your audience is resistant to your claim/thesis, you might need to explain your assumptions first. It gives you a starting place.

NOTICE: Thinking about argument in this way makes sure you've considered all parts of the rhetorical triangle: Logos: message, Ethos: Author (credibility), and Pathos: audience