**UMW Speaking Center Presents**



The Toulmin Model

**COMPONENTS**

Claim: the conclusion of the argument, or the statement the speaker wishes to prove

Grounds: the foundation or basis for the claim, support

Warrant: reasoning that connects the claim and grounds

Backing: the support for the warrant

Modality: the degree of certainty for the claim

Rebuttal: exceptions that might be offered to the claim

**EXAMPLE**

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 they will win?

Modality: The probability that the Ravens will win is 80%.

Question: If you are so confident, why don’t you place a huge bet?

Rebuttal: Anything could happen. The Ravens may have a lot of injuries.

From Tim O’Donnell, University of Mary Washington