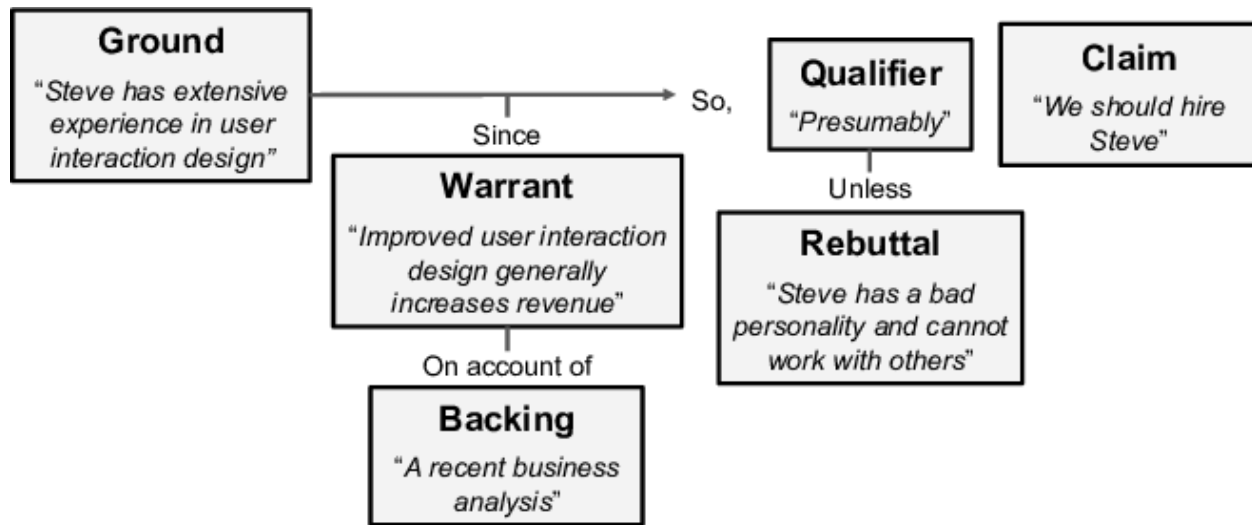


Evaluation Guide

Writing Center Hours: 8:30 AM – 8:30 PM M–Th,
8:30 AM– 4:30 PM F, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM S–S
Email: okc.tutoring@okstate.edu
Phone: 405-945-3278

Definition: An evaluation essay calls for you to evaluate something of your choice. This could be a movie, restaurant, amazon item, or anything that you could critique. This is written in the style of a Toulmin argument. So basically, you are arguing if something is good or bad with supporting evidence and reasoning, but you must also consider what someone with the opposite opinion would say about it as well. Finally, remind the reader why your opinion is the best opinion.

Toulmin Model:



Claim: This is your overall argument for the essay. Tell the reader if what you are evaluating is good or bad. This should appear in your Thesis statement.

Examples:

- Thundergun is the greatest movie ever made.
- Wendy's is a terrible restaurant.
- The newest Iphone is far superior to any that have come before it.
- OSU-OKC is a fantastic place to study nursing.



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Grounds: Grounds are your evidence. This is what you will use to directly support your claim. It is important for your evidence that you cite and quotes you may use in APA or MLA format. Here are some quick examples:

APA:

According to Hackney (2023), “The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind” (p. 42).

“The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind” (Hackney, 2023, p. 42).

MLA:

According to Hackney, “The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind” (42).

“The nursing program at OSU-OKC is one of a kind” (Hackney 42).

Warrant: The warrant is the criteria you will use to describe why your argument is correct. It is often the “because” part of your argument. Basically, it is the reasoning behind your claim.

Thundergun is the best movie ever because it is funny.

↑
(Claim)

↑
(Warrant)

Backing: The backing explains *why* the warrant is a good reason that fully supports the claim.

It is important for a movie to be truly great that it is funny because comedy brings people joy, and almost everyone likes feeling joy.



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Qualifier: Before you get into the rebuttal or even acknowledge what the opposing argument has to say, it is important to include a qualifier. A qualifier allows you to acknowledge the opposing argument without admitting it is right. Here are a few words and phrases to use before you bring up the opposing argument.

Some people believe, Others may think, One might consider,
Certain opinions suggest, The opposition states, Apparently,
Supposedly, Presumably, It is a possibility, Hypothetically

Rebuttal: Now that you have stated what the opposite side thinks, tell us why they are wrong and you are right. It is important to use sound logic and solid reasoning. Your entire Objection/Refutation should look something like this:

Some people believe that Wendy's is a great restaurant because



(Qualifier)



(Counterclaim)

they use fresh sea salt on their french fries and offer healthy



salads.

← (Counter Warrant)

However, these semi-healthy options do not make up for the



(Rebuttal)



extremely unhealthy options on the rest of their menu.