Using the Toulmin Model to Develop Argument / Response

Mr. Eble, AP Language & Composition

Directions: Choose one of the texts we've read over the past month or so in regards to language and/or immigration:

- A chapter in Chomsky's *20 Myths*
- Krauthammer's "In Plain English"
- Agosin's "Living in Spanish"
- Orwell's "Politics & the English Language"
- Schlosser's "In the Strawberry Fields"

For your reading, select <u>the primary claim</u> or <u>a supporting claim</u> that the author makes. For that claim:

1. Identify the claim and the evidence provided.
2. Restate the argument in the Toulmin model in the space below.
3. Craft a response using one of the Toulmin templates on page 131 of your text; you should support, challenge, or qualify the author's claim.
4. Print this sheet and bring it to our next class, when you'll write your essay using your thesis.

Write your Toulmin Analysis (using the chart and/or the "Because [evidence], therefore [claim], since [assumption], on account of [backing], unless [reservation] model, providing a qualifier if necessary.

Also, if you're analyzing only a paragraph or two of writing, provide it in the space below.

In the space below, write your claim using one of the Toulmin templates on page 131 (which are also on the next page).

Toulmin Templates

You do not *have* to use these in argumentative writing, but they certainly aid writers in formatting thesis statements based upon challenging assumptions, the most significant contribution of Toulmin's model.

1. Although what _____ says about _____ may be true in some cases, his/her position fails to take _____ into account. A closer look at _____ reveals that _____.

2. While the position advanced by ____ may seem reasonable, it assumes ____. If that were so, then _____. It might be more reasonable to consider _____.

3. One way to look at _____ would be to say _____; but if that were the case, then _____. Of course, another view might be _____. Yet another way to consider _____ might be _____.

4. Position ____ would be sound only if we chose to ignore ____. When we consider _____, then _____. In addition, _____.

5. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all agree about _____? The trouble is, _____ says _____ and _____ says _____. How can we come to a compromise that recognizes _____.

*Again—please print this when you're finished.