The chapters in Part Four introduce some important features of argumentation in general. Those features of argumentation are important, not just to educational debate, but to all forms of argumentation that people encounter in society. The features are described in a basic model borrowed from Philosopher Stephen Toulmin created in 1958 (Uses of Argument, p. 99) and later modified in 1988 (Jonsen and Toulmin, The Abuse of Casuistry: A History of Moral Reasoning, p. 35.) The basic model is so commonly recognized among argumentation teachers and writers that it is now simply referred to as the Toulmin Model of Argument.

The modified Toulmin Model includes four elements and looks like this:

![Toulmin Model Diagram](image)

In this text, the term *data* is replaced with *evidence*, *warrant* is replaced with *link*, and *rebuttal* is replaced with *exception*. All of these modifications in language are made for the sake of clarity. The concepts remain the same. Thus, the Toulmin Model as discussed in this text looks like this:

![Toulmin Model Diagram](image)
The basic idea underlying the *Toulmin Model* is that an argument is constructed for the purpose of supporting a *claim* (and sometimes an exception). The *claim*, along with any possible *exceptions*, forms the fundamental thesis of the argument. The *evidence* consists of any material used to support the claim. The *link* is that part of the argument that shows the relationship between the *evidence* and the *claim*.

Part Four begins with Chapters 15, 16, and 17 that describe the different elements of argument. Chapter 15 begins by describing *claims* and *exceptions*. Then, Chapter 16 describes the function and kinds of *evidence*. Chapter 17 describes several kinds of *links* and how they function. Thus, after reading Chapters 15, 16, and 17, a reader should have a basic foundation of the elements central to any argument.

After discussing the individual elements, different relationships among the four arguments are described in Chapter 18. Chapter 18 describes various structures of argument and Chapter 19 discusses how arguers can structure their arguments around consequences and principles. Then, Chapter 20 shows how to combine different kinds of argument coherently. Finally, Chapter 21 discusses criteria that separate good arguments from poor ones, criteria commonly known as fallacies.