

**Use Informal Toulmin Reasoning to Refine Your Position.** A contemporary approach to logic is presented by the philosopher Stephen Toulmin (1922–2009) in *The Uses of Argument* (2nd ed., 2003). He describes an informal way of arguing that acknowledges the power of assumptions in our day-to-day reasoning. This approach starts with a concise statement – the essence of an argument – that makes a claim and supplies a reason to support it.

———— CLAIM —————, ————— REASON —————

Students should boycott the café because the food costs too much.

You develop a claim by supporting your reasons with evidence – your *data* or grounds. For example, your evidence might include facts about the cost of lunches on campus, especially in contrast to local fast-food options, and statistics about the limited resources of most students at your campus.