First Four Steps of the *Toulmin Model*

Issue: The Essential Question

1. **Claim**: The position or side of the essential question that you plan to argue. (thesis statement – subject + opinion)

   Example: The novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*, should not be banned from schools and libraries, due to its vulgarity, as all readers should have the freedom to evaluate literature on their own.

2. **Clarification**: Explanation of any unclear terms used in the claim.
   "In other words…"
   "By that I mean…"
   "That is…"

   Example: In other words, the profane language and sexual content in the novel should not prevent its availability to the public. The text should be accessible for study in any classroom and checkout at any library.

3. **Evidence**: Cites a piece of evidence from the text that proves the claim. The **facts** that support the claim. This is almost always a quotation because in literature we are always working with language and words.

4. **Warrant**: A) Explains the evidence/quotation and its significance.
   B) Explains how the evidence proves the claim.

*note: steps 1 & 2 = introduction
steps 3 & 4 = body paragraphs