

present three criteria for the logical assessment of arguments: acceptability, relevance, and sufficiency. Corresponding to each of these three criteria, we then present three basic fallacies: problematic premises, irrelevant reason, and hasty conclusion. We also briefly define a few fallacies related to the debater's use of language.

Much of our discussion throughout this text is based on argumentation theory. When we say "argumentation theory," we mean the ideas and principles that scholars have collected and constructed over hundreds and even thousands of years. These theories provide the basis for making effective choices about developing and presenting arguments. These theories, then, underlie the skills debaters seek to develop.

Part One of the text is simultaneously the most basic and the most advanced section.³ It provides basic information needed to understand the rest of the book, particularly the information about argument construction in Part Two. At the same time, the information in Part One and the remainder of the book is intended to provoke more advanced debaters to move beyond the information presented here toward developing their own kinds of argument structures and, more importantly, toward developing their own voices as effective and ethical debaters in the public sphere.

NOTES

1. Stephen Toulmin, *Uses of Argument*. (Cambridge:Cambridge University Press, 1958).
2. *The New Rhetoric: A Treatise on Argumentation*,. Trans. John Wilkinson and Purcell Weaver. (Notre Dame, Ind.IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 1969).
3. The six chapters in Part I rely heavily on three particular sources of argumentation theory. The first source is the argumentative perspective of Stephen Toulmin. Toulmin's work was originally published in 1958 in what has become a very influential work in the field of argumentation: *The Uses of Argument*. His work has been updated in a variety of other sources (Stephen Toulmin, Richard Rieke, and Allan Janik, *An Introduction to Reasoning* [New York: Macmillan, 1979]). Toulmin's work provides the basic structure of argument that not only informs Chapter 2, but Chapters 3, 4, and 5 as well. A second source we find complementary to Toulmin's work is that of Chaim Perelman and Lucie Olbrechts-Tyteca. Published at the same time as Toulmin's *Uses of Argument*, the *New Rhetoric: A Treatise on Argumentation* provides much more detail about such elements as evidence, warrants, and claims. Perelman and Olbrechts-Tyteca's work is especially important to Chapters 3, 4, and 5. Finally, in Chapter 6, we borrowed quite heavily from Canadian philosophers Ralph H. Johnson and J. Anthony Blair (*Logical Self-Defense* [New York: McGraw Hill, 1994]). Johnson and Blair are among a group of Canadian and American philosophers who have been especially influential in the study of informal logic and practical argument. We find their approach to the quality of arguments and fallacies to be quite useful for debaters.