Task: Claims & Warrants

Situation: This is a task to be used with clients who are reckoning with readings from which they need to distill some meaning; it can also be used with clients who are having trouble deriving claims from evidence, to show them how writers can use evidence to generate new claims.

Instructions: Tell the client to select 3 paragraphs from an argument (doesn’t matter which 3, as long as they are working to derive claims from evidence), and, working backwards from the evidence, find (or infer) the claim, and then infer (warrants are rarely stated outright) the warrant for the claim. If warrants prove too difficult to explain, you may elect to allow the client to focus only on evidence and claims.

Outcome: The goal is a clearer understanding of what it means to derive claims from evidence. Also, clients who are working to analyze assigned readings will have some work to take home.
The point of this exercise is to learn to spot claims and infer warrants in texts that you have been assigned to analyze. For each of 3 paragraphs, you should identify some evidence being used, identify a claim that is being made on the basis of that evidence, and finally infer the logical bridge—the assumption—that links the claim to the evidence. For example, if I say, “the streets are wet this morning, so it must have rained last night,” then my warrant is the assumption that when it rains at night, the streets will be wet in the morning.

**Paragraph 1**

Evidence: 

Claim: 

Warrant: 

**Paragraph 2**

Evidence: 

Claim: 

Warrant: 

**Paragraph 3**

Evidence: 

Claim: 

Warrant: