The Toulmin Approach

What is it?
The Toulmin Approach is a writing frame used to present an argument.

Why are we using it?
We are using it because it helps to structure and organise our ideas.

Toulmin

Begin your argument with a **<u>simple sentence</u>**, stating your point →
The death penalty is immoral.

You are then going to **<u>clarify</u>** your point, making your argument stronger →

To clarify, it is a terrible and inhumane manner for a person to die.

You then state **<u>FOUR reasons that support your argument</u>** →
There are many reasons to support and validate my argument:

the death penalty is murder; it denies a person of their basic human rights; there is always the possibility of the guilty verdict being wrong and it is not a suitable punishment.

…notice how you are using the colon and the semi-colon here. This writing structure gives you the opportunity to use a **<u>variation of punctuation!</u>**

Let's put it all together into our first paragraph...

The death penalty is wrong. To clarify, it is a terrible and inhumane way for a person to die. There are many reasons to support my argument: the death penalty is murder; it denies a person of their basic human rights; there is always the possibility of the guilty verdict being wrong and it is not a suitable punishment.

Ok, so now what? We have our first paragraph, but what about the rest of our argument? The next four paragraphs will each address your reasoning for the argument...

Paragraph 2: the death penalty is murder

Paragraph 3: it denies a person of their basic human rights

Paragraph 4: there is always the possibility of the guilty verdict being wrong

Paragraph 5: it is not a suitable punishment.