

## **CSC: CoR: Chapter 11: Warrants**

The 10 salient sentence strings presented below are lifted from the chapter as is, without modification (except, perhaps, for a bit of punctuation here or there). They are presented in order of appearance in the chapter.

### **Ten Salient Sentence Strings**

1. A warrant is a principle that connects a reason to a claim. Warrants are important because readers may challenge not just the validity of a reason but its *relevance* as well.
2. The basic principle is this: state your warrants only if your readers will not be able to understand your reasoning without them, or if you anticipate that your reasoning will be challenged.
3. Academic warrants aren't commonplaces we all share. They are specific principles of reasoning that belong to particular communities of researchers and they are countless.
4. Experienced researchers rarely state their warrants explicitly when they write for specialized readers in their fields because they can safely assume that these readers already know them.
5. Academic warrants are often stated in ways that compress their circumstances and consequences... That's something we rarely do with proverbs but that experts often do with their specialized warrants.
6. A warrant seems reasonable when readers can accept that its consequences follows from its circumstance. If readers don't accept that, you must first convince them to accept your warrants by treating it as a claim in its own argument, supported by its own reasons and evidence.
7. Your warrant may be reasonable, sufficiently limited, and superior to others, but your readers might still reject it if it is not appropriate to their particular research community.
8. When you rely on unconventional principles of reasoning, you can anticipate that at least some of your readers will be skeptical. So diffuse the skepticism by stating your warrant and then justifying it. Refer to others in your field who also use it. If you cannot do that, make an argument of your own defending your reason.
9. The most difficult arguments to make are those that challenge not just the claims and evidence that a research community accepts but also the warrants it embraces. No argumentative task is harder, because when you challenge a community's warrants, you ask readers to change not just *what* they believe but *how* they reason.
10. Such warrants are not backed by evidence but by the certainty of those who espouse them. It is pointless to challenge them, because they are statements of faith, impervious to argument or evidence. If you encounter them as you gather your data, ignore them or treat them not as a subject for research but as an inquiry into the meaning of life.