

Classical Argument

Argumentation has two meanings:

- 1) Stating Your Opinion
- 2) Understanding Your Opponent's Opinion

And it follows the pattern below:

Introduction

Theme (Anecdote) - painting a word picture of the big idea . . .

Narration

The Argument (Examples) - summarize the specific issue at hand

Thesis/Proposition

Your Response (Argument) - state your reasons for your position and discuss implications
(What will happen if you are right?)

Concessions

Opposing Insights (Cause-Effect) - demonstrate why the opposition takes the stand it does

Rebuttal

Your Response (Compare Contrast) - address the opposition's issues with your own responses

Conclusion

Summary (Sales Pitch) - demonstrate the urgency of the issue (return to anecdote) and propose a solution

This can be done in one paragraph (as we will practice), or it can be the format of a paper with each category being its own paragraph. The first message you will hear when you get to college: "Throw away the five paragraph essay." (Though you can do this in 5

paragraphs, too -- see below) In it's place, you will be expected to know the Classic Rhetorical Argument above. If you do, you will be in the best academic shape of your life!

