**COMPLETED STUDENT NOTES**

**Argumentative Writing**

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| Argumentative writing is when you argue one side of a discussion.  Argue= to prove or defend a point by using EVIDENCE.   * Any claim you make MUST be supported by evidence * This is different than persuasive writing, which may use an emotional appeal   You CANNOT argue both sides!  An argumentative paragraph is set up MUCH like an expository paragraph:   * Claim * Lead-in/Evidence * Commentary * Lead-in/Evidence * Commentary * STOP! Here we have to add something new!   Argumentative writing has something expository writing doesn’t: a counterclaim!   * Address the OTHER point of view in an argument * You MUST have one to have a valid argument | Acknowledge the counterclaim BRIEFLY, then REFUTE it by explaining why your point of view is better.  REFUTE= to prove wrong using evidence.  Example:  Claim: Since smoking can cause cancer, people should not smoke.  Counterclaim: Some may say that just because something has the potential to cause cancer doesn’t mean that it will, so it isn’t necessary to avoid smoking altogether.  Refutation: However, when your health is on the line, it’s better to weigh the risks and avoid an activity that has been proven to be so dangerous.  Including the counterclaim, an outline of an argumentative paragraph looks like this:   * Claim * Lead-in/Evidence * Commentary * Lead-in/Evidence * Commentary * Counterclaim * Refutation * Conclusion |