**The Argumentative Essay**

**Introduction**

* Hook/Intro Audience to the general topic
* Provide any background info needed to understand the topic/define
* terms/present both sides of issue
* Thesis—make a claim of fact, value, or policy

**Body**

**Topic Sentence—Support for Claim/Reason 1**

Supporting evidence, details, examples

**Topic Sentence—Support for Claim/Reason 2**

Supporting evidence, details, examples

**Topic Sentence—Support for Claim/Reason 2**

Supporting evidence, details, examples

**Refutation/Opposition to Claim**

Address objections to your argumentation/position and show how they are unsound, unfair, weak, or limited.

*\*If an opposition argument is strong, admit its strength, but show how it is limited or only one facet of the argument.*

*\*\*The refutation may go before the body paragraphs if your claim is especially unique or controversial.*

**Conclusion**

* Sum up your argument, restate the thesis, reinforce why your claim is relevant, important, or valuable to the reader.
* Make a strong closing statement.

DEVELOPED BY BlLL STlFLER, CHATTANOOGA STATE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 1996 ©BILL STIFLER, 1996 REV 2002