

BASIC REFUTATION

Refutation-the act of responding to an argument

- Provide a counterclaim
- Responds directly to ideas of other side
- Promotes direct clash between arguments
- Answer arguments that are already in play
- Essential debate skill

Step 1 “They say...”

- Directly refer to argument
- Rephrase the argument
- State point quickly and clearly

Step 2 “But I disagree...”

- State your counter-argument
- Can be the opposite of opponent’s claim
- Can attack reasoning/evidence of opponent

Step 3 “Because...”

- Offer reasoning evidence to enforce your counter-argument
- Can be independent support
- Can be reasoned criticism

Step 4 “Therefore...”

- Compare your refutation to opponent’s argument
- Show that your argument is better



Four-Step Method

Step 1: “They say...”

Step 2: “But I disagree...”

Step 3: “Because...”

Step 4: “Therefore...”

