**LECTURE:** Understanding **ARGUMENT** and **REFUTE**

REMEMBER:

**Essay is an Opinion Paper**

* The term “Essay” originated from the word “assay” (to give weight/value)

In Argumentative Writing, **we present our opinion** as we make the choice of the possible options.

* Our opinion/ choice is **our Argument**
* The opposite choice becomes (we call) **the Counterargument**
* Counterargument is the opposite choice optionORthe opposite opinion about YOUR option
* **Refutation is a tool/ way to re-establish YOUR argument** (opinion/ choice) by **acknowledging the counterargument** (**the OTHER choice/option** OR **the opposite opinion** (usually the disadvantage**) of YOUR choice**).

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KNOW THE PURPOSE:

To make an argument/ to write an Argumentative Essay, your PURPOSE is:

1. **to make a clear argument**/ show our choice/ our opinion- **state YOUR argument**
2. **to support Your opinion**/ argument **by reasons** (examples, facts)- 2 or 3 good reasons
3. **to** **persuade our readers that YOUR argument is better than the other choice** (counterargument). **And one GREAT tool to do so is to use Refutation.**

REMEMBER:

**To refute-to persuade, do not ignore the counter-argument** (the opposite choice/other option),

**but acknowledge it, validate to some extent and to re-establish YOUR argument** (choice) *in the light of the contrast.* **Refute Paragraph** starts with acknowledging the counterargument, and ends with re-establishing Your argument!

**USE 4 Statements for Refute Paragraph:**

* **Acknowledge** the counter-argument
* **Validate** the counterargument

State 1 or 2 benefits of **the other choice/option**

**OR** State 1 or 2 **disadvantages of YOUR choice**

* **Rebuttal/ Dis-validate** the benefits of the counterargument
* **Re-establish** YOUR choice/ argument
* Consider the Refute Paragraph Template to know how to start/ form these 4 important statements in your Refute Paragraph.

**HOW TO DRAFT an ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY WITH REFUTE PARAGRAPH**

**Topic: Online workshops** **vs** **on-campus workshops**

**Step 1: Make a choice:** decide your argument and counterargument

Our Argument: **Online workshops**

Counterargument: **on-campus workshops**

**Step 2: Support:** 3 GOOD reasons for your argument and 1-2 reasons for the counterargument

**Supporting our argument** with 3 reasons

**Online workshops**

* Help to save time
* Feel safer
* Provide flexible schedule

Supporting reasons/ advantage for Counterargument:

**On-campus workshops:**

* Help with teacher-student interaction

**Step 3:** **Refute:** Draft your Refute Paragraph by using 4-statement model

Remember that Refute Paragraph starts with acknowledging the counterargument and ends with re-establishing Your argument

* **Acknowledge** the counter-argument- It is true that…
* **Validate** the counterargument -One cannot deny that…
* **Rebuttal/ Dis-validate** the benefits of the counterargument- However,….
* **Re-establish** YOUR choice/ argument **–** Therefore,…..

**REFUTE PARAGRAPH: 4 sentence sample**

It is true that some students **may** prefer on-campus workshops. One cannot deny that **on-campus workshops h**elp to establish **teacher-student interaction**. However, having flexible schedule outweighs (is better for students than) the advantage of having teacher-student interaction. Therefore, having **online workshops** is more preferable than on-campus option.

**\* Paragraph is 5-9 sentences, so let’s add some sentences:** (7 sentence sample)

**Furthermore, as another support to my choice, I will also consider the counterargument, and then refute it.** It is true that some students may prefer on-campus workshops. One cannot deny that on-campus workshops help to establish teacher-student interaction. **When students are having a face-to face instructions, they can ask the teacher questions, discuss, and get to know their teacher better.** However, having flexible schedule outweighs (is better for students than) the advantage of having teacher-student interaction. Therefore, having online workshops is more preferable than on-campus option. **So, next semester, LAVC should offer more online workshops for their students.**

Argumentative Essay Structure with Refute:

**Introduction**

**Body Paragraph 1** – Support to your argument (reason 1) Help to save time

**Body Paragraph 2** – Support to your argument (reason 2) Feel safer

**Body Paragraph 3** – Support to your argument (reason 3) Provide flexible schedule

**Body Paragraph 4** – REFUTE Paragraph

**Conclusion**