**NOTES FOR AN ARGUMENTATIVE THEME WITH A COUNTERARGUMENT PARAGRAPH**

**THE PARTS AND THEIR PURPOSES**

**Title**

Grabs the readers’ attention

Is capitalized and set apart

**Introductory Paragraph (Paragraph #1)**

Introduces the claim

Grabs the reader’s attention with an Introductory Option

Names the claim and major reasons

**Reasons Paragraph 1 (Paragraph #2)**

Presents the first major reason supporting the claim

Provides evidence based on research related to the first major reason

**Reasons Paragraph 2 (Paragraph #3)**

Presents the second major reason for the position

Provides evidence based on research related to the second major reason

**Counterargument Paragraph (Paragraph #4)**

Presents the counterarguments against the claim

Provides evidence based on research related to the counterarguments

**Concluding Paragraph (Paragraph #5)**

Tells the reader the theme is ending

Restates the claim

Summarizes the major reasons and evidence supporting the claim OR

Presents a Concluding Option

Refutes the counterarguments

Provides the author’s main message to the reader

**NOTES FOR AN ARGUMENTATIVE THEME WITH A COUNTERARGUMENT PARAGRAPH (cont.)**

**THE SENTENCES IN THE PARAGRAPHS**

**Introductory Paragraph (Paragraph #1)**

Sentence #1: A Topic Sentence that presents the claim

Sentence #2: A Lead-off Detail Sentence that begins the Introductory Option or introduces background information about the claim

Sentence #3: A Follow-up Detail Sentence that tells more about the Introductory Option or background information

Sentences #4 and 5: Additional Detail Sentences as needed

Sentence #6: A Thesis Statement that names the major reasons for the claim

**Reasons Paragraph 1 (Paragraph #2)**

Sentence #1: A Topic Transition Sentence that includes a transition, names the claim, and introduces the first major reason

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that present the evidence based on research (e.g., facts, examples, quotations) related to the first major reason. Each new type of evidence has one Lead-off and at least one Follow-up Sentence related to it.

**Reasons Paragraph 2 (Paragraph #3)**

Sentence #1: A Topic Transition Sentence that includes a transition, names the claim, and introduces the second major reason

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that present the evidence based on research (e.g., facts, examples, quotations) related to the second major reason. Each new type of evidence has one Lead-off and at least one Follow-up Sentence related to it.

**Counterargument Paragraph (Paragraph #4)**

Sentence #1: A Topic Transition Sentence that includes a transition, names the claim, and introduces the counterarguments

Sentences #2-7: Detail Sentences that present the evidence based on research (e.g., facts, examples, quotations) related to the counterarguments. Each counterargument has one Lead-off and at least one Follow-up Sentence related to it

**Concluding Paragraph (Paragraph #5)**

Sentence #1: A Concluding Transition Sentence that restates the claim and indicates that the theme is ending

Sentences #2-3: Detail Sentences that summarize the major reasons

Sentences #4-5: Detail Sentences that negate the counterarguments

Sentence #6: A Clincher Sentence that ends the theme and restates the claim in a way that makes the reader think more about it or presents the main message of the theme