**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

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**Four-Step Method**

Step 1: “They say…”

Step 2: “But I disagree…”

Step 3: “Because…”

Step 4: “Therefore…”

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