ROADMAP FOR ARGUMENT

Argument is a process. It allows people to clarify and better understand an issue. In order to form an effective argument, the writer must understand each side of the issue. The writer must use a positive tone, show he understands the other side, but maintain that his view is the most reasonable, effective, and supportable.

Topic: ___________________________
(capital punishment)

Claim: ___________________________
(Capital punishment should be abolished) or (Capital punishment should be allowed)

Pros (What are the advantages of your position?)
Eliminate serious criminals, less cost for taxpayers than life in prison, deters serious crimes

Cons (How do people on the other side view it?)
We are a civil society and should not kill to prevent murder; what if an innocent person is convicted?

Common Ground (What does each side have in common?)
Each side wants to prevent serious crimes against society and feels criminals should be punished.

Support/ Evidence
• Statistics
• Facts
• Examples
• Reasons
• Authorities

INTRODUCTION
Write an introduction for your argument. Be sure to catch the reader’s attention. Use a startling fact, or create a scene that might be typical to make your point. Include your claim which is the thesis in an argumentative essay.

BODY
Use good transitions (connect something from previous paragraph with next idea in new paragraph). Ex. Even though capital punishment is wrong, some people still uphold it.

• Summarize the opposing views
• Refute the opposing views (rebuttal)
• Present your position using lots of evidence

CONCLUSION
Summarize your main points and restate your claim (thesis).