Classical Argument Structure

**Introduction**
- Brings the topic and its importance/relevance to the reader's attention
- Prepares the reader for the content that will follow
- Sets the stage for the argument and shows your tone & style
- States the thesis (last sentence of the introduction)

**Background**
- Information the reader would need before examining your argument, including any of the following:
  - Historical context
  - Social context or setting
  - Definitions of terms to be used in the support
  - A problem leading to the "need"
  - Background information that a reader should know before examining your argument.

**Evidence**
- Shows the support for your argument
- Illustrates the "chain of reasoning" (the logic of the path your ideas followed to arrive at your position)
- Uses concrete support: examples, explanations, quotes, data, description
- Analyzes that support: breaks down the evidence and shows what it means and how it relates to the point being made
- May use reason/logic (logos), emotion (pathos), or credibility (ethos) to appeal to the reader and gain favor
- Synthesizes: shows how each link in the chain connects to the next and to your assertion/claim

**Opposition and Response/Refutation**
- Mentions the opposition's key positions and/or how the opposition might perceive your argument
- Shows the flaws in that position or refutes the opposition's claims

**Conclusion**
- Sums up the argument you have made and connects to the thesis, yet...
  - Elaborates on the significance of the key points
  - May present a call to action or leave the reader with an impactful message
  - May make a final appeal to reason or emotion
  - Earns respect by showing the authority of your ideas through the logic of your argument

Alternatively, opposition & refutation also may appear in the introduction, after the intro & in place of "background", or after each supporting paragraph in response to that point.
Tool for planning your Classical Greek Argument

Introduction

Background

Evidence

Opposition and Response/Refutation

Conclusion