Rogerian Argument Outline

INTRODUCTION
- Lead-in sentences
  ("hook" strategies: a scenario or an example, a related current event in the news, a startling statistic, a provocative question or statement)
- Rhetorical context/brief synopsis of the discussion surrounding the issue
- Issue stated as an issue question to set neutral tone of inquiry and investigation

BODY
- Two or three paragraphs to examine key supporting points that support one prominent position on the issue
- Two or three paragraphs to examine supporting points that support an alternative position, opposing the above viewpoint
  (The writer's use of transition/signal sentences, such as On the other hand, critics argue . . . ; or, Despite these compelling arguments for . . . , many persons strongly oppose . . . helps prepare readers for the writer's switch from examining one position to an opposing viewpoint.)

CONCLUSION
- Paragraph which presents a balanced and concise summation of the most compelling points representing different sides of the argument
- Closing paragraph which presents the writer's middle-ground position, drawing elements from each position examined earlier
  (A common ground value appeal can lay the groundwork for a united front in approaching a resolution to the issue; e.g., In the debate over legalization of physician-assisted suicide, we can all agree that we wish to make the process of dying more humane and comfortable for the individual person who is suffering from a terminal illness. Even so . . . . Also, as illustrated, the writer may choose to use the inclusive first-person, plural point of view, we, to reinforce the collective spirit of his or her proposal.)