How to argue effectively:

You need to know your side of the argument. Have proof: actual examples from real life that illustrate what you mean when you say something.

**Social Media extends bullying beyond school and into the home.** Rehtaeh Parsons took her life last year because students from her school shared illicit photos of her, commented on them and took away her dignity.

You need to know the other side of the argument too. And don’t just mention it in the conclusion. When you make a point, discuss the counter point and shoot it down. There are two effective methods:

1. The Hamburger: The writer takes a stand, recognizes the opposition, and then counters the opposition,

Social Media extends bullying beyond school and into the home**.** Rehtaeh Parsons took her life last year because students from her school shared illicit photos of her, commented on them and took away her dignity. Some might say that this is just a solitary incident, that there is more good that comes from social media, and that the loss of life is not directly related to social media; that it is a symptom of bullying and not the digital age itself. However, this argument ignores the fact that without sites like Facebook, bullying would not be as far reaching. It would end at school. It wouldn’t be spread as quickly. And it would not last as long. Pictures are sent in the blink of an eye, comments are made without thinking. People are acting as though there are no consequences to their actions, all because it is easier to do these things without looking the victim in the face. Bullying is easier when you don’t even have to do it in person.

1. Set ‘em up knock ‘em down: The writer begins with the counterargument and then spends the rest of the paragraph knocking it down:

Some might argue that Facebook is the great connector of people. It brings us together. And it certainly does. The problem is that we are too connected. Social Media extends bullying beyond school and into the home**.** Without sites like Facebook, bullying would not be as far reaching. It would end at school. It wouldn’t be spread as quickly. And it would not last as long. Pictures are sent in the blink of an eye, comments are made without thinking. People are acting as though there are no consequences to their actions, all because it is easier to do these things without looking the victim in the face. Rehtaeh Parsons took her life last year because students from her school shared illicit photos of her, commented on them and took away her dignity. Bullying is easier when you don’t even have to do it in person.

Your concluding sentences should stay the same no matter which format you use. YOU STILL NEED TO CONCLUDE PARAGRAPHS!