



# Answering Arguments



## **Remember...**

- Arguments have claims, warrants, and impacts - you can attack all of those components!



## Why Learn This?

- Debate is not just about your own arguments!
- You need to answer your opponents' arguments and rebuild your own.



# Refutation

- “Rebuttal” “Refutation”
- This is the act of answering the arguments of your opponent AND rebuilding your own arguments against their responses.



## Example (1)

- Resolution: The best food is donuts.
- My argument: Donuts are sugary and good.
- Their argument: Donuts are unhealthy.
- What might I do to respond?



## Example (2)

- In responding, I'd answer the argument that donuts are unhealthy.
- I'll also need to answer my opponents' answers to my argument too.



## **Types of Answers**

- Doesn't Matter
- Not True
- Other factors/Non-Unique



## **Doesn't Matter**

- This answers the “impact.”
- It tells us that we shouldn't care about the argument.
- “Donuts being unhealthy is irrelevant.”





**Not True**

- This just tells us the opposite of the argument - the argument is false!
- “Donuts are plenty healthy.”



## Non-Unique

- This tells us that other stuff will also have the effects they talk about.
- “Other foods are also unhealthy.