



Counterarguments and Counterclaims



What is a counterargument?

It is the opposing viewpoint to YOUR argument/opinion/thesis statement

Why should you present a counter argument?

It shows the reader you are an expert on the issue

It shows the reader that you are considering the opposition's point of view

It shows your reader why an opposing point of view is wrong

How do you present a counterargument?

With a 1-2 punch. First, you present the opposing view point, then you knock it down

What is the layout of a counterclaim paragraph?

	Parts of Paragraph
1 sentence	Counterclaim. Use one of these lead in words/phrases... *Some people... *Others...
	Plus one of the following verbs... *argue... *claim... *believe... *think...
	Then include one argument that supports the other side. Plus one of the following words... *because *as Then include one reason the counterargument may be true. Example: Others argue fate determined Romeo's destiny because he did not control all the events that unfolded in his life.
2-3 sentences	Rebuttal Point out what's wrong with the counterclaim Use one of these lead in words/phrases... *However... *Even so... *Nonetheless... *On the other hand...

	Example: However, fate did not cause Romeo to make poor decisions. He used poor judgment, and this is what led to his downfall, not fate.
1 sentence	Textual evidence to combat counterclaim and support your thesis statement. In other words, find a quote that proves you are right and the counterclaim is wrong. Yes, one more quote! Use MLA style to cite your source(s).
1-2 sentences	Explain why your point is stronger than the counterclaim.
1 sentence	Concluding Sentence...Sum it up! Use one of these lead in phrases... *As presented... *As explained... *As argued... Then, restate your thesis/claim.