

By including a **counterargument** paragraph, you show that you know and understand that other positions exist, you have considered these, and you can respond to them.

Sample Counterargument Paragraph

Some scholars and researchers claim that there are negative impacts of technology on a child's developing mind. According to one research study, scholars claimed that "moderate evidence also suggests that early exposure to purely entertainment content, and media violence in particular, is negatively associated with cognitive skills and academic achievement" (Kirkorian et al., 2008, p. 8). Although there is validity to the presented argument, this theory excludes educationally driven programming, some of which is specifically designed to educate children beyond what they might experience by age-appropriate schooling alone. There is incredible value in formal education and the public school system; however, classroom modalities are not the only way children learn about the world around them. Educational stimuli can come in the form of direct contact with a teacher, reading a book, or by watching a program. For example, a student learning about the number three can find value in hearing a teacher explain mathematical values of the number, by reading a book which illustrates a visual example of the number, and by watching a program with a catchy song about the number three. In his eBook *Children's Learning From Educational Television: Sesame Street and Beyond*, Fisch (2004) described how some television programs are types of informal education, "much like educational activities that children find in magazines, museums, or after-school programs" (p. 9). While a good deal of education takes place in the classroom, television can be used to supplement

Here, the student identifies the counterargument.

The student then begins to respond to the counterargument and states that this opposing argument is incomplete.

The student provides both an example and evidence from research that shows the opposing argument is incomplete and not considering alternatives.

the academic experience of a student. When presented in an informal and entertaining way, this supplemental material can help students become more engaged in topics, and more willing to delve into deeper consideration of

concepts. Early learners may also be introduced to subject matter that is not typically introduced until later phases of formal schooling, if at all (Fisch, 2004). Children and adolescents may also find value in television news programming which provides information on current events, such as Nickelodeon network's program titled *Nick News*. This show detailed topical information, such as politics and environmental issues, in an entertaining televised format which was geared to children and adolescents (Fisch, 2004).

With all this considered, television and other forms of technology should not be dismissed as petty entertainment; the potential to present educational information in this medium is possibly immeasurable.

More evidence provided here.

Paragraph closes by stating why the student's argument is stronger than the identified counterargument.