

Name: _____

Date: _____

Possible Answers

Argument Writing: Counter-Arguments

A counter-argument is an argument that someone would make if they disagreed with your claim. While writing, it may seem strange to include an argument that goes against your claim. However, including a counter-argument helps strengthen your claim because it gives you the chance to respond to a reader's possible objections before they have finished reading. It also shows that you are a reasonable person because you have considered both sides of the argument.

Here are some sentence starters that you can use to write a counter-argument:

- Some people say...
- It may be true that...
- It's easy to think...
- You might argue that...

Write a counter-argument for each of the following claims.

1. Halloween is the best holiday.

A dentist might say that Halloween candy is bad for kids' teeth.

2. Our class should go on a field trip to the science museum this year.

Some people might say that the museum is too far away.

3. School should end an hour earlier each day.

You may think that kids wouldn't learn as much with less time at school.

4. Recess is the most important part of the school day.

It may be true that, at recess, kids are only playing.

5. Participating in sports helps kids learn life skills like cooperation.

Someone could argue that sports are dangerous and lead to injuries.

6. Football is the best sport to watch on TV.

You might say that baseball is our national pastime.

7. Dogs make great pets.

Some people think that cats are better pets than dogs.

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After you introduce the counter-argument, you can respond to it by writing a **rebuttal**. A rebuttal is your chance to show the reader why you are right and the counter-argument is wrong. A strong rebuttal provides evidence that undermines or weakens the counter-argument.

Here are some sentence starters that you can use to write a strong rebuttal:

- But I argue that...
- However, the truth is...
- But when you look at the facts...
- However, the evidence shows...

Write a rebuttal for each of the following counter-arguments.

1. A dentist might say that Halloween candy is bad for kids' teeth.

But research shows that, with regular brushing and flossing, occasional treats will not negatively affect a person's dental health.

2. Some people think that summer is the best season because the weather is warm.

However, despite the cold, all the best holidays are celebrated in winter.

3. You could argue that chocolate chip cookies are tastier than my grandmother's pie.

But the truth is that my grandmother won the blue ribbon in five dessert contests.

4. It's easy to think that taller kids are better at basketball.

However, Mugsy Bogues was only 5'3" and made it into the NBA.

5. It may be true that you got a higher score on your math test.

But when you look at the facts, I am the best math student in the school.