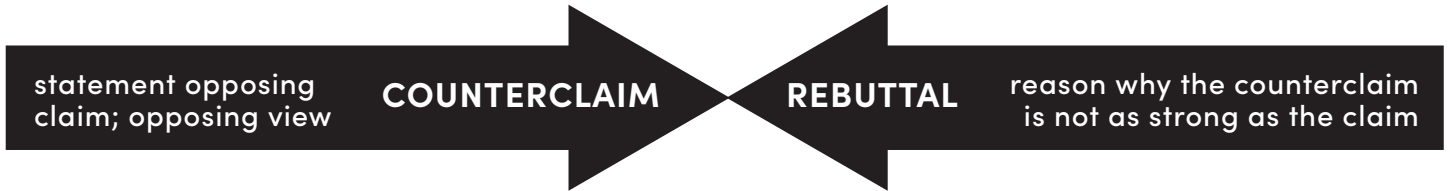


I Beg to Differ!

Writing Effective Counterclaims

One way to persuade an audience is to go beyond just stating one’s opinion. When writers address opposing views with a reasonable rebuttal, they provide support to their reasons.

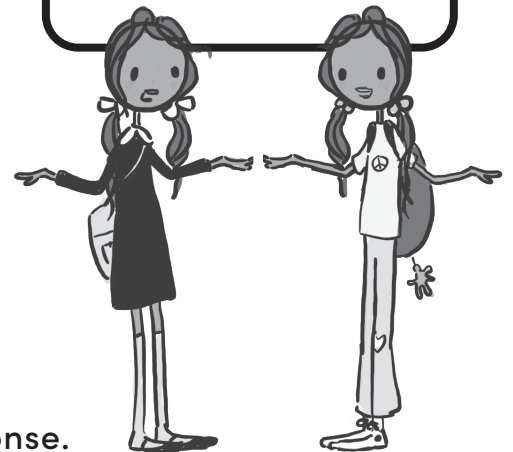


Part 1: Let’s Review

Directions: As you read this persuasive paragraph, pay close attention to the **opinion statement** (bold), the reasons (underlined), and *the support for these reasons* (italicized).

Students should wear a uniform to school. First of all, students would feel less peer pressure to dress in a certain style if everyone dressed in the same clothing. *Some people may say that this is more expensive for parents because they have to buy certain clothes for school. However, I believe this would save money because children only have to wear one set of clothes for the school year.* In addition to this, students would save time getting ready for school. *Others might say that kids can save the same amount of time by setting their clothes out the night before school, but I would argue that most kids do not remember to do this.* Lastly, if students wear a uniform during field trips, it is easier for teachers to keep track of their students. *While it might be true that teachers could ask their students to wear a school T-shirt during this type of outing, I believe this is one more thing that a student has to remember.*

Take a closer look!
 The *italicized sentences* support the author’s claims, or reasons. Each support sentence highlights the opposing viewpoint and persuades the reader to see the weakness of this counterclaim.



Do you think children should wear a uniform to school?
 Include a reason and support for your reason in your response.

Student answers will vary.

Sample Answers *

Name: _____

Part 2: It's Your Turn!

Date: _____

Directions: Read each opinion statement and reason.

Then, complete the counterclaim statements by filling in the blanks. * Student answers will vary.

1. Opinion: Students should be allowed to chew gum in school.

Reason: Chewing gum helps some people concentrate.

Support: Teachers might argue that a student might be distracted when chewing gum.

but I disagree with this because many kids actually focus better when they chew gum.

2. Opinion: Kids should not get paid for good grades.

Reason: Kids should want to get good grades without getting paid for them.

Support: Kids might disagree and claim that being paid for good grades helps motivate them to work hard.

but I don't agree with this viewpoint because learning something well is its own reward.

3. Opinion: Teachers should provide more time for recess.

Reason: When kids run around, it's easier for them to concentrate in class.

Support: Some parents might say that there isn't enough time during the school day for recess.

However, I don't agree with this because when students have had time to run around, they are more focused during class.

Directions: Write your own opinion, reason, and support statements.

4. Opinion: Student answers will vary.

Reason: _____

Support: Some parents might say _____

however, I don't agree with this because _____