

Name: _____

Date: _____

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.

3. School should end an hour earlier each day.

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

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

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

7. Dogs make great pets.

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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.

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

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

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