

Name _____ **Counterclaim**



Writing Counterclaims

A counterclaim is an argument that opposes your thesis statement. Counterclaims attempt to discredit or disprove the main points of your argument. When writing your argumentative essay, it is important to anticipate what the counterclaims to your thesis might be.

Your thesis paragraph is where you tell the reader what you are claiming and how you plan to prove it, which includes identifying counterclaims and why they are incorrect. You then rebut each counterclaim in detail later in the essay. A counterclaim/rebuttal paragraph should begin with a strong topic sentence that includes the claim, the counterclaim, and the essence of how or why you plan to refute it. For example:

- Opponents of (claim) believe (counterclaim); however, these are weak arguments because...
- Those who object to (claim) claim that (counterclaim), yet this is invalid because (claim)...

DIRECTIONS: For each counterclaim you have identified for your essay, write a topic sentence for your counterclaim/rebuttal paragraph.

Counterclaim:

My topic sentence:

Counterclaim:

My topic sentence: