



Refuting Counterclaims

A **counterclaim** is an argument that opposes your thesis statement. Counterclaims attempt to discredit or disprove the main points of your argument. When constructing an argument, it is important to anticipate what the counterclaims might be, so you can **refute** them. There are two different strategies for refuting counterclaims:

- Point out obvious flaw in the counterclaim
- Agree with counterclaim, but offer new evidence that could weaken or discredit their argument.

DIRECTIONS: Write each counterclaim you have identified in the lefthand column. In the righthand column, decide how you will refute it with your evidence and reasoning.

Counterclaim	How I Will Refute It