

PART I: An Introduction to the Counterargument

1. Define counterargument.
2. In a 5 paragraph essay, which paragraph is the best placement of a counterargument?
3. What are three reasons why using counter-arguments is necessary/effective?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Part II: An Exercise on Counterarguments

When writing a persuasive essay, your argument will be much stronger if you identify an opposing argument (counterargument) and explain why that argument is less effective.

Use the **Counterarguments Chart** to practice writing **counterarguments** for these arguable statements.

THE ARGUMENTS

1. Teenagers should be given more homework so they stay out of trouble.
2. High school students should have closed campus because there isn't enough time to go anywhere for lunch in a safe manner.
3. A school uniform should be implemented so there is less time wasted on enforcing a dress code
4. Students should park in the back portion of the parking lot because teachers have so much to carry in to the building every day.
5. Students shouldn't be required to go to school because then there will be kids there who don't want to be there and they might cause trouble.
6. The school day should be shortened because more time in school does not increase the quality of learning.
7. The school should abolish all organized sports and put all money into music because it has been proven that students involved with music are more successful in school.
8. Students should be allowed to eat and drink any time and anywhere during the school day because students have different needs for eating times.