

Opposing Claim & Counterargument

Opposing Claim:

First, imagine a skeptical reader, or cite an actual source, who might resist your argument by pointing out a problem with it. That problem might be that a different conclusion could be drawn from the same facts, that one of your key assumptions is incorrect, that a key term is used unfairly, or that certain evidence is ignored or downplayed. When writing about an opposing claim, you can use phrases like, “It is true that...” “Admittedly...” “While some may argue that...” or “It may seem that...”

Counterargument:

Here, you return to your own argument. You can announce this with a *but, yet, however, nevertheless or still*. This must involve careful reasoning, not a flippant (or nervous) dismissal. Your counterargument should refute (disprove) the opposing claim, showing why it is mistaken.

Where to put your OC & CA:

You can put these wherever they make sense in your essay, but Mrs. Day says NOT to put them in your introduction, or too early in the text. There’s a chance your reader will get confused (or think you’re confused) about which side of the argument you’ve taken.

Examples of Opposing Claims and Counterarguments:

One might object here that standardized testing is an important measure of a student’s growth. Nevertheless, these tests are taking up too much of our time and resources in public education.

While there are many who argue that the children of illegal immigrants aren’t paying into the tax base, and should therefore not receive a free public education, in actual fact undocumented immigrants paid over 23.6 billion dollars in taxes last year alone.