

Building Your Argument: Addressing the Counterclaim

Protect your claim by acknowledging and addressing the opposition's counterclaim.

Not backing down to your opponents gives you "street cred" or CREDIBILITY!

- **KNOW** the COUNTERCLAIM: this is the opposite, or opposing viewpoint, of your claim.
- **ADDRESS** the COUNTERCLAIM in your paper, acknowledging that there are those who disagree. This shows your readers you realize that some may disagree with you.
- **WRITE** a REBUTTAL: Prove the COUNTERCLAIM is FALSE or ineffective with your own EVIDENCE that refutes theirs. Your rebuttal is another REASON, but this time it is in direct response to your opponents. It's like the final round in an arm-wrestling competition and you have to lay down the hammer. Be STRONG!



COUNTERCLAIM(S)

YOUR REBUTTAL

Type one counterclaim from your opponent (a reason for disagreeing with your claim).

Type your response to their reason. How would you argue against it? What is your "come back" to them?

Two empty rounded rectangular boxes for writing. The top box is under the 'COUNTERCLAIM(S)' header and the bottom box is under the 'YOUR REBUTTAL' header. Arrows point from the top box to the bottom box, indicating the flow of the argument.

THE BODY: WRITING A PARAGRAPH THE COUNTERCLAIM & YOUR REBUTTAL

Write your opponent's counterclaim:

Find EVIDENCE to rebut your opponent. Include at least TWO supporting details to back you up (details include expert quotes, facts, statistics, etc.):

How can you connect the EVIDENCE to your REBUTTAL? EXPLAIN how the evidence supports your rebuttal and your overall CLAIM, why it's important, and how it negates your opponent's COUNTERCLAIM.

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