

Writing a Counterclaim / Rebuttal Paragraph

Why is it important to have a counterclaim?

- Shows that you recognize that not everyone will agree with you and that you have considered the points of view of others.
- By anticipating disagreement with your argument and persuasively arguing against it in your rebuttal, you convince your reader to trust you and your claim.

What should be included in the counterargument / rebuttal paragraph?

1. State a strong counterclaim to your position.
 - a. Refer to your notecards. What would be an understandable reason to support the opposite side of your claim? Addressing this understandable reason should be the first sentence of your counterclaim / rebuttal paragraph.
 - b. Use a sentence starter below to help you with this:
 - even though - Although - Some people think...
 - while it is true that - admittedly - granted
 - Some may say... - Of course, some people may not agree because...
2. Explain why the counterclaim does not change your overall position. Why is your position stronger?
 - a. Use specific details and evidence from your notecards to support your rebuttal.
3. End with a concluding statement that reinforces your point of view with powerful, persuasive language.

Example Counterclaim / Rebuttal Paragraph:

Some may say that students' lives are too busy for homework. Many students have other activities outside of school that limit their time that they have to do homework. Nevertheless, coping with a full schedule is part of life. Students have busy lives and so do adults. It is important that students in preparation for the adulthood learn to manage their time. In the article "Less is More When it Comes to Homework" Kino School gave time during the day to do their homework and to teach them to manage their time (Michaud ¶6). However, if a school is giving time for students to do homework, is that really teaching them to manage their time? Time management should be done independently so students learn to manage their personal activities with the homework they need to complete. Assigning homework and having it done at home is beneficial for not only academics, but also teaching responsibility. For example, in his article "Family Help and Homework Management in Urban and Rural Secondary Schools," Professor Jianzhong Xu from Mississippi State University found that students whose teachers or guardians taught them effective time management strategies were able to better develop effective work habits and increase their overall academic achievement (Xu ¶6). With proper instruction on time management techniques such as setting specific goals, estimating time needed for various activities, and removing distractions, students developed the efficient work habits from completing homework outside of class that they will need when they are adults. Therefore, the best way to help students both achieve high levels of academic success and develop essential time management skills is not by assigning less homework or giving more work time in school; the best way to help students is by teaching them how to more effectively complete homework outside of class.

What is the counterclaim in this paragraph?

Why did the author include the quote from "Less is More When it Comes to Homework"?

What evidence does the author give to counteract the counterclaim?