

Due Dates!

- April, 16th
 - Presentations start (powerpoints)
 - Final paper is due (submit on turnitin.com)

- April, 30th
 - Extended version of your paper is due
 - Same research paper with counter-argument; submit on turnitin.com



What is it?

How to write it effectively?

EXPANDING YOUR POSITION PAPER: COUNTER-ARGUMENT

Considering your Audience

- Whom do you want to reach? Who are they?
- What does your audience already know—or believe—about your topic? What do you need to tell them? What is the best way to do so?
- What's your relationship with your audience, and how does it affect your language and tone?
- What kind of response do you want?
- How can you best appeal to your audience? **So what question?**
 - **Hint:** ask someone else to read your paper and see how they respond. (e.g., Undergraduate Writing Center UWC)

Counter-Argument

- When you write an academic essay, you make an argument
 - Your thesis statement and support
- When you counter-argue, you consider a possible argument *against* your thesis or some aspect of your reasoning.
 - It presents you as the kind of person who weighs alternatives before arguing for one

How to Include It?

- Counter-argument in an essay has two stages:
 - You turn against your argument to challenge it
 - Then you turn back to re-affirm it.

The Turn Against



The Turn Back

Brainstorm for possible opposing positions



- Ask these three questions when you are trying to write counterargument:
 - Who might disagree with my position? Why?
 - What reasons do people have for disagreeing with me? (weaknesses in argument, opposing viewpoints...)
 - What would support an opposing argument?

John Mauk and John Metz, authors of *The Composition of Everyday Life*

1) The Turn Against ...

- Introduce this turn against with a phrase like:
 - *One might object here that...*
 - *It might seem that*
 - *It's true that*
 - *Admittedly,*
 - *Of course,*
- Then you state the case against yourself as briefly but as clearly as you can, pointing to evidence where possible.

2) The Turn Back

- Your return to your own argument must involve careful reasoning. In reasoning about the proposed counter-argument, you may
 - Show why it is mistaken
 - Acknowledge its validity or plausibility, but suggest why it is less important
- Words you could use ...
 - *but, yet, however, nevertheless or still*

3 Steps to Provide strong counter argument the Opponents

1. Introduce your opponent's argument.
2. Decide whether it is strong, weak, true or false
3. Provide counter arguments and counter evidence

Examples of Step 1

- **1. Introduce your opponent's argument.**
- **Argument (1): People were healthier in the past**
- **Argument (2): People suffer from stress**

Examples of Step 2

2. Decide whether it is strong, weak, true or false

- Argument (1):
 - Support 1. More pollution
 - 2. More cases of cancer
- Argument (2):
 - More stress
 - More depression

Examples of Step 2

3. Provide counter arguments and counter evidence

Argument (1):

More pollution, ...

More cases of cancer ...

▪ Argument (2):

- More stress ...

- More depression ...

Phrases for giving a counter argument

- **When your opponent's argument is**

true but yours is better:

- While it is true that . . ., but ...
- There is some truth to the argument . . .
However, ...
- It is true that . . . However, ...

Phrases for giving a counter argument

- **When your opponent's argument **might be true** but you are **not sure**:**
 - It may be true that . . . , but...
 - Even if . . . , ...
 - Even if it's true that . . . , ...

Phrases for giving a counter argument

- **When your opponent's argument is false:**
 - It is not true that . . .
 - They claim that . . ., but in fact . . .

Stay with your subject ...

- As a writer, your job is to account for positions that oppose your claims and supports.

Example:

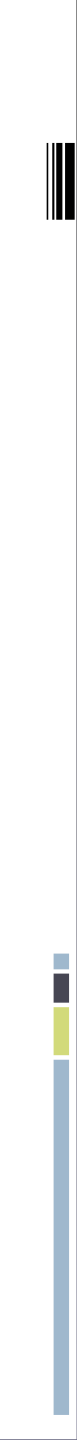
- A **claim/thesis** is “More Americans are choosing low-carb diets because the media promotes low-carb diets as the new way to a skinner body.”
- **Counterargument:** “Some Americans don’t watch television commercials because they own DVR units, such as Tivo, **but** most Americans are exposed to other forms of advertisement in magazines, newspapers, and highway billboards.”

Where to Put a Counter-Argument

- You could put it ...
- as part of your introduction—before your thesis (attention getter)
- as a section or paragraph just after your introduction

Where cont' ...

- as a quick move within a paragraph, where you create a counter-argument not to your main idea but to the sub-idea that the paragraph is arguing or is about to argue;
- as a section or paragraph just before the conclusion of your essay.




It is true that
counter arguments enrich the
argumentative writing;
however,
adding a weak counter argument or
overdoing it causes worse results.

Activity Compilation ...

- The five topics → provide counter-argument
 1. To Die or Suffer: The Necessity of Physician assisted Suicide
 2. Why World of Warcraft is so popular around the world
 3. Cosmetic Surgery: Should we end this action?
 4. Did Neil Armstrong Really Land on the moon?
 5. Herbal Medicine is Good for our Health



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- When finish switch with another group to evaluate
 - Evaluators → write your comments on the paper
 - Did they accomplish the two stages?
 - Turn against and turn back
 - Clear and brief?



“The Great Debaters!”

What is a debate?

How is it related to
argument/counter-argument?

Debate Activity

1. The media shouldn't pry famous people's lives
2. There should be some control of the media by the government
3. News papers should just give us the fact, rather than expressing an opinion
4. It should be a crime to make fun of someone's religion in the media
5. It should be illegal to have adverts aimed at children

How to debate ...

Group One For ...	Group Two Against ...
1) In-group discussion argument	In-group discussion counter
2) State the argument + support	Counter-argument + Support
3) Rebuttal and conclusion	Rebuttal and conclusion