

## Building Counterarguments

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**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE

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Students will construct a counterargument and a rebuttal to strengthen their own claim.

### MATERIALS NEEDED

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- 6 index cards
- pen or pencil
- a partner or family member to role-play with

### HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

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1. Write your claim from Week 2 on one index card. On 2 more cards, write two counterarguments (reasons someone might disagree).
2. On the back of each counterargument card, write a rebuttal — a response that acknowledges the point but explains why your claim still stands.
3. Give the counterargument cards (blank side up) to a partner or family member. Have them read each counterargument aloud to you as if they disagree with you.
4. Respond out loud using your written rebuttals, then have your partner rate each rebuttal 1-3 for how convincing it was and write the score on the card.

### QUESTIONS

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1. What is a counterargument, and why does a strong essay include one?

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2. Write your strongest counterargument and its rebuttal.

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3. What score did your partner give your rebuttals, and what feedback did they give?

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4. How can addressing a counterargument actually make your own claim stronger, not weaker?
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