

Counterarguments and Rebuttals

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will identify a counterargument to their claim and write a rebuttal that strengthens their position.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- index cards
- pen
- a family member or friend to role-play with (optional)
- notebook paper

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Write your claim on one index card. On 3 separate cards, write the strongest arguments someone who disagrees with you might make.
2. Spread the 3 'opposing' cards on a table and, for each one, say out loud why a reasonable person might believe it.
3. Choose the single strongest opposing argument and role-play a 1-minute mini-debate — argue the opposing side out loud for 30 seconds, then argue your side for 30 seconds (with a partner if available, or by yourself).
4. Write a rebuttal paragraph (4-6 sentences) that acknowledges the opposing argument and then explains why your claim is still stronger.
5. Underline the sentence in your rebuttal where you directly address the counterargument.

QUESTIONS

1. **What is the strongest counterargument to your claim?**

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2. **Write your rebuttal's key sentence that responds directly to that counterargument.**

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3. **Why is it important to acknowledge the other side's argument instead of ignoring it?**
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4. What did you notice about your claim's strength after role-playing the opposing side?
