



Writing Center
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TIPS:

Get the scoop on **counterarguments** in *The Composition of Everyday Life* pages 246-251 or page 438 in *The Saint Martin's Guide to Writing*.

Rebuttals often begin with a **but** or **however**.

The more controversial the topic, the more counterarguments are possible. The more you can refute opposing views, the more likely you are to sway your reader.

Make an appointment with the Writing by calling 372-2221 or email us at writers@bgsu.edu if you have any more questions about your writing!

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For BGSU's Writing Center

Moseley Hall Hours:

Mon - Thurs 9-5
Fri 9-3

Bromfield Satellite Hours:

Sun & Mon 6-10pm

MacDonald Satellite Hours:

Sun & Tues 6-10pm

H. S. R. C. Satellite Hours:

(membership required)
Sun - Thurs 7-11pm

Kohl Satellite Hours:

Wed 6-10pm

Counterarguments

- 1. What are counterarguments? Why are they important?**
 - Counterarguments are the acknowledgements of and responses to the opposing views of the claims and arguments in your essay. According to Sue Zwyer, a BGSU Writing Specialist, counterarguments are important because research shows that “better educated people exposed to opposing viewpoints were more likely to be swayed when communicators [writers] provide a two-sided appeal by including and addressing counterarguments.”
- 2. Brainstorm for possible opposing positions.**
 - John Mauk and John Metz, authors of *The Composition of Everyday Life*, encourage you to ask these three questions when you are trying to write a counterargument:
 - * Who might disagree with my position? Why?
 - * What reasons do people have for disagreeing with me?
 - * What would support an opposing argument?
- 3. Stick to the subject at hand.**
 - Counterarguments stem from **your** claims and supports. As a writer, your job is to anticipate and account for positions that oppose your claims and supports.
 - In other words, let's say your **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.”
- 4. Use Counterargument to Develop Points**
 - An argumentative essay should support its main claim **as well as refute** opposing positions. (Remember you are trying to convince a reader to side with your viewpoint. If you can effectively refute opposing viewpoints, a reader will most likely take your side.) Use the counterarguments' rebuttal to expand on your main points.
- 5. An example:**
 - **Argument:** Dad, I would like to borrow your Jaguar for next Saturday's basketball game. I need to borrow your car because I want to look cool for my new crush.
 - **Counterargument** (Anticipating Dad's response): Now I know that you might say “No” because I got in an accident last time I borrowed your Jag.
 - **Concession:** I really understand your position especially because my car insurance went up significantly.
 - **Rebuttal:** **However**, I will drive carefully and...