

**PRELIM 10: Counterargument & Refutation Paragraph/s**

Introducing and refuting a counterargument supports your Stance and increases your ethos, or credibility, by presenting you as a confident & open-minded writer who considers competing arguments, or alternative points of view to your position or Stance. Adding a counterargument and refutation also adds complexity to your argument strategy by helping you integrate more complex Rhetorical Structural Moves to contextualize, complicate, raise an objection, and contradict claims made in your argument that you then refute by distinguishing and elaborating how your analysis shows that your view is more informed, better, more nuanced, etc.

Writing a *Counterargument* involves juxtaposing sources that disagree with or offer a counter claim to an I SAY Assertion in your argument. Writing a *Refutation* involves using sources that support your original I SAY Assertion to refute the counterargument by analyzing its limitations, inaccuracy, drawbacks, or inapplicability (including any faulty logic) and then strengthening your argument by reaffirming (also using evidence from sources) your original stance or point.

**Counterargument words/phrases that explain what counterargument IS and DOES:**

disagree	differ	distinguish	conflict	contradict	complicate	counter
diverge	explain	differentiate	complexity	alternative	dissimilar	neither/nor
not/never	juxtapose	divides	against	object	objection	refute
refuse	reimagine	undermine	reaffirm	reconsider	reassess	renegotiate
however	nevertheless	nonetheless	and yet	conversely	although	but <sup>(then again)</sup>
on the one hand...; on the other hand...			(add your own counterargument & refutation diction)			

- Counter-argues → considers an argument *against* your I Say Thesis or Stance Assertion
- Allows you to anticipate doubts and pre-empt objections that a skeptical reader might have
- Imagines a skeptical reader (or cites a source) that disagrees with or resists your argument.
- Points out a potential problem with your argument, e.g. that a different conclusion could be drawn from the same facts, etc.
- Enhances your credibility & ethos as a writer willing to examine opposing arguments/views
- Consists of 2 stages: #1: shows how a counterargument challenges your argument; #2 refutes the counterargument by analyzing its limitations & re-affirming your position/stance.
- Departs from but then returns to your argument using the following language: *but, yet, however, nevertheless or still*—to do the following:
  - Acknowledges the validity or plausibility of a counterargument, but then refutes it by showing its limitations, oversights, inapplicability, or misunderstanding;
  - Complicates I SAY Stance by restating/elaborating analysis in a nuanced/complex way;
  - Shows that you recognize disadvantages or practical drawbacks to your argument;
  - Offers an alternative explanation or proposal that SEEMS to make more sense.

A Counterargument & Refutation A&R should be added to your IBD/RIP by Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> for in-class Writing Workshop & Follow-up Conferences