

Handling a Counterclaim

8th Grade

Stating the other side properly, then answering it.

The counterclaim paragraph is where an argument stops being a rant.

1 STATE IT FAIRLY

The strongest version of the opposing view, not a caricature.

2 ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT IS RIGHT

Concede any genuine point. It builds credibility.

3 REBUT

Explain why it does not defeat your claim — new evidence or a limitation.

4 RETURN TO YOUR CLAIM

End the paragraph on your position, not theirs.

SENTENCE STEMS

'Some argue that...' · 'It is true that...'

'However, this overlooks...' · 'Even so,...'

Attacking a version nobody holds is a straw man. Examiners notice it, and so do readers.