

Paragraph 5: Counterclaim Paragraph

Definition: In this paragraph, the writer addresses the opposing side of the claim. This is called the counterclaim. Allow two to three sentences to express the counterclaim as well as elaborate about why those views are valid from their perspective. Then, in the same paragraph, the author will make a rebuttal. The rebuttal explains why the counterclaim view is invalid or not important. The point of the counterclaim paragraph is to show the reader that the author has considered both sides of the argument.

INTRODUCING THE COUNTERCLAIM:

It's important to use clear **transitions** to alert the reader that the essay is about to express the view that opposes the claim. Since the purpose of the whole paper is to support the claim, these **transitions** are important. Without these **transitions**, the paper appears to be flip-flopping back and forth from one claim to another without a clear purpose.

Use the following **transitions** to help your audience recognize the function of this paragraph:

Counterclaim beginner transitions:

- Some people/A few people/ One may [believe, argue, feel, think, suppose, etc.] that **[STATE THEIR COUNTERCLAIM]**.
- It is sometimes [thought/imagined/supposed/believed,etc.] that **[STATE THEIR COUNTERCLAIM]**
- It might sound logical that **[STATE THEIR COUNTERCLAIM]**

Counterclaim Elaboration Transition beginners:

- They may think this because...
- Their reasoning is due to the fact that...

Rebuttal Transitions:

- What their argument fails to consider is...
- While this position may seem popular, it is not supported by the fact that...
- Yet while the core of this claim is valid, it suffers from a flaw in its reasoning by the truth that...
- Even though this view seems convincing at first, one should consider the fact that...

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