

## Counterargument Activity

**Purpose:** The purpose of this assignment is for you to spend some time gathering some materials that you will need to make a blockbuster counterargument for your essay. Once you have completed this activity, refer back to it when writing your counterargument in your essay.

**Counter Arguments:** A counterargument is a statement that disagrees with your thesis. As writers, we include counterarguments because doing so allows us to address the concerns of our readers. After you include a counterargument, it is important to refute it. When we demonstrate that we understand the counterargument and are able to refute it, we make our argument stronger. In general, it is important to choose a strong counterargument. Do not purposefully select a weak or simplistic counterargument. In addition, it is important to choose a counterargument that directly disagrees with the logic of your thesis.

**Directions:** Answer each of the questions below, as directed.

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**Step One: Addressing the logic of your thesis**  
In this step you will identify the logic of your thesis.

Write your thesis below:

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**Examples:**

General education requirements are beneficial to a college education because they help to broaden students' experiences.

Take a few moments to explain the logic of your thesis:

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**Examples:**

The logic that supports my thesis is the idea that it is beneficial for college students to have a broad set of experiences. In order to believe my thesis, one must accept that a diverse set of experiences, which is achieved by general education requirements, benefits students' learning.

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**Step Two: Identifying your counterargument.**

In this step, you will use the supporting logic that you just identified to develop a counterargument that directly contradicts that logic.

Take a few moments to question the logic of your thesis. What would a critic have to say about your logic?

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Example:

A critic might say that it is not necessary for students to have a broad set of experiences in order to receive a good education.

Translate this into a counterargument using the “\_\_\_\_\_ might say ...” pattern.

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Example:

Some might say that it is not essential to have a broad set of experiences in order to reap the benefits of a college education.

\*Side note: this is a good time to name your critic. To do this, think about who might agree with the counterargument.

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Step Three: Responding to your counter argument with a refutation

In this step you will have the opportunity to refute the counterargument you just created.

If you have a counterargument, do some free writing. In this free writing try to explain why you still think that your thesis is correct. Another way to think about it is, why is the logic that supports your thesis more reasonable than the logic that supports the counterargument.

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Examples:

I think the log of my thesis is still correct because the purpose of college, in my opinion, is to broaden people’s minds and develop their curiosity. College is more than just job training, and general education requirements are an important way that colleges encourage students to take classes that expand their minds.