

Counterclaim and Conclusion Notes

Counterclaim:

- Your counterclaim should include the other side's opinion.
- Make sure to make it clear what your counterclaim is. Make sure that you point out that "Other people" believe this, so it doesn't get confused with the arguments you made for your own side.
- Develop this paragraph fairly, even though you don't agree. Make sure to highlight BOTH pros and cons (strengths or limitations) in your counterclaim section. If other people believe it, there must be a reason or some kind of positive they see in that argument. Make sure you can identify those reasons.
- Refute, discredit, or point out the limitations or weaknesses of the other argument. However, avoid calling the other side "stupid" or any variation of that. It makes you sound less intelligent and credible.
- Lead into your final and strongest reason.
- If you have this as a separate paragraph, make sure you have all the things you needed in your other body paragraphs:
 - Topic sentence with a clear counterclaim and reasons
 - Development and explanation of the reasons
 - Include your research (In-text citations)

Conclusion:

- Your last paragraph is your conclusion, so make it count.
- Restate your thesis, but don't put in the exact same wording.
- Restate your reasons, but don't introduce any new evidence or information in this paragraph.
- Call on your reader to change or do something. When you get to the end, you want your reader to have strong feelings about what you've told them, so push them to go do something about your issue!
- Remember, this paragraph should include some specific things
 - Topic sentence (possibly this is the restatement of your thesis, but it doesn't have to be).
 - The reasons you argued for in your argument
 - Tie up your ideas
 - Call to action with a strong closing sentence that motivates your reader to do something about your issue.