

Week 7 lesson 3 Work

Can I use counterarguments to strengthen an argument?

Rewrite the counterarguments, remember you don't want the counterargument to appear too strong to convince them against your argument.

Example 1

Argument - break times are essential in schools as it gives children a rest from their work.

counterargument – break times waste work time

Rewritten counterargument

Some people might suggest that break times waste work time, it is true that by having break times less time is spent in the classroom. **However**, children will not miss out on learning as after a break they will be able to concentrate better in class. **This will actually** mean they are able to learn more.

Example 2

Argument - homework is an essential activity as it allows children to recap on what they have learnt in school.

counterargument – children need to get at least one hour of physical activity each day which they won't be able to get if they are doing homework.

Rewritten counterargument

It could be argued that children must have enough time to do an hour of physical activity each day, it is essential for their health. **However**, they are only at school for six hours a day. If you discount sleep time they still have about seven hours left, surely they could fit some physical activity in this time, couldn't they?

RED

Key phrases

Some people might suggest	Some people say	It could be said/argued
However	Whereas	On the other hand

Rewrite these counterarguments so that the reader will still be swayed by your argument.

1. **Argument** - Children should be banned from bringing mobile phones into school. They are expensive and cause many problems when they are misplaced, stolen or damaged.

counterargument – mobile phones can be used to learn.

Rewritten counterargument...

2. **Argument** - Superman is the most powerful superhero. He is able to fly and he is almost indestructible.

counterargument – kryptonite kills him.

Rewritten counterargument...

3. **Argument** - Dogs are better as pets than cats because they are faithful to their owners.

counterargument – cats are better because they like being stroked and so are more affectionate.

Rewritten counterargument...

4. **Argument** – Maths lessons are more important than PE lessons because they allow you to get a qualification that will help you get a job when you are older.

counterargument – PE teaches you how you can be healthy. What could be more important than that?

Rewritten counterargument...

YELLOW

Rewrite these counterarguments so that the reader will still be swayed by your argument.

1. **Argument** - Children should be banned from bringing mobile phones into school. They are expensive and cause many problems when they are misplaced, stolen or damaged.

counterargument – mobile phones can be used to learn.

Rewritten counterargument...

2. **Argument** - Superman is the most powerful superhero. He is able to fly and he is almost indestructible.

counterargument – kryptonite kills him.

Rewritten counterargument...

3. **Argument** - Dogs are better as pets than cats because they are faithful to their owners.

counterargument – cats are better because they like being stroked and so are more affectionate.

Rewritten counterargument...

4. **Argument** - Maths lessons are more important than PE lessons because they allow you to get a qualification that will help you get a job when you are older.

counterargument – PE teaches you how you can be healthy. What could be more important than that?

GREEN

Write a counterargument for each of the arguments listed. Try to ensure the original argument is still the strongest and they won't be swayed.

1. **Argument** - Children should be banned from bringing mobile phones into school. They are expensive and cause many problems when they are misplaced, stolen or damaged.
2. **Argument** - Superman is the most powerful superhero. He is able to fly and he is almost indestructible.
3. **Argument** - Dogs are better as pets than cats because they are faithful to their owners.
4. **Argument** - Maths lessons are more important than PE lessons because they allow you to get a qualification that will help you get a job when you are older.