ENGLISH, LITERACY, AND COMMUNICATION

Claims and counterarguments

Difficulty level: Advanced

English, Literacy, and Communication

This document was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Overview of the concept

This is how you argue fairly and strongly. You state your position, face the best argument against it, and answer it. That is what makes an argument convincing, whether you are debating a school rule or writing an essay, because a reader who sees you have considered the other side is much more likely to trust your conclusion.



© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Write a counterargument to this claim: School should start later.

SOLUTION

Think of a reason against the claim.

A later start would disrupt after-school sports.

So a counterargument is: Later starts disrupt after-school sports.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Write a counterargument to this claim: Homework should be shorter.

SOLUTION

Think of a reason against the claim.

Students need practice to learn.

So a counterargument is: Students need practice to learn.

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

Practice questions

1 **Write a counterargument to this claim: We should recycle.**

- **A** Recycling takes too much time, so we should stop doing it.
- **B** Sorting recyclables takes only minutes, and the savings are large.
- **C** Recycling saves resources and cuts waste.
- **D** Recycling bins make sorting quick and easy.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

2 Write a counterargument to this claim: Exercise should be daily.

A. Daily exercise keeps children healthy and alert.

B. There really is no time, so exercise should wait until the holidays.

C. Short active breaks fit easily into the school day.

D. Short active breaks fit into the day without cutting lessons.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

3

Write a counterargument to this claim: Libraries need funding.

A Libraries offer study space, help, and books that online access alone does not replace.

B Everything is online now, so libraries are no longer needed.

C Libraries lend books, computers, and study space to everyone.

D Libraries help students learn and read for free.

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

4 Write a counterargument to this claim: Trees should be planted.

- **A** Trees cost too much to maintain, so we should not plant them.
- **B** Trees give clean air and shade.
- **C** Tree benefits, such as clean air and shade, outweigh maintenance costs.
- **D** Trees make streets cooler and nicer to walk along.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

5

Write a counterargument to this claim: Reading should be daily.

A Children are too busy, so reading should wait.

B Even 15 minutes of daily reading fits a busy day.

C Daily reading builds vocabulary and focus.

D Reading every day helps children learn new words.

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

6

Write a counterargument to this claim: Breakfast should be eaten.

A. Children who are not hungry should skip breakfast every day.

B. Breakfast gives children energy for the morning.

C. A good breakfast helps children concentrate at school.

D. A small breakfast, such as fruit, still gives morning energy.

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

7

Write a counterargument to this claim: Bikes are better for short trips.

A. For short trips, bikes are still quick, and rain gear helps in bad weather.

B. Bikes are too slow in bad weather, so nobody should ride them.

C. Bikes are quick and cheap for short trips.

D. Cycling keeps you fit and costs nothing in fuel.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

8

Write a counterargument to this claim: Water should be saved.

A. Water is plentiful here, so there is no need to save it.

B. Saving water keeps supply safe for dry times.

C. Even where water seems plentiful, saving it protects supply in dry times.

D. Saving water is an easy habit that helps everyone.

Understand It with Pulse

Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

9

Write a counterargument to this claim: Team sports should be offered.

A Not all students like sports, so team sports should not be offered.

B Team sports can include many roles and games, so more students can take part.

C Team sports teach teamwork and keep students active.

D Team sports give every student a chance to play and belong.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

10 **Give a claim and a counterargument about saving money.**

A Claim: Saving money is wise. Counterargument: Money should be enjoyed now.

B Claim: Saving money is wise. Counterargument: Saving money is also wise.

C Claim: Money should be enjoyed now. Counterargument: Enjoying money now is fun.

D Claim: Saving money is boring. Counterargument: Saving money is boring.

Understand It with Pulse | Flag a mistake

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.

ANSWER KEY

1. Recycling takes too much time, so we should stop doing it. (any fair counterargument is acceptable)

2. There really is no time, so exercise should wait until the holidays. (any fair counterargument is acceptable)

3. Everything is online now, so libraries are no longer needed. (any fair counterargument is acceptable)

4. Trees cost too much to maintain, so we should not plant them. (any fair counterargument is acceptable)

5. Children are too busy, so reading should wait. (any fair counterargument is acceptable)

6. Children who are not hungry should skip breakfast every day. (any fair counterargument is acceptable)

7. Bikes are too slow in bad weather, so nobody should ride them. (any fair counterargument is acceptable)

8. Water is plentiful here, so there is no need to save it. (any fair counterargument is acceptable)

9. Not all students like sports, so team sports should not be offered. (any fair counterargument is acceptable)

10. Claim: Saving money is wise. Counterargument: Money should be enjoyed now. (any fair reply is acceptable)

© 2026 Brett Robbins. All Rights Reserved.