

**Writing  
To  
Persuade**



**Claim  
&  
Counterclaim**

**Argumentative  
Writing**



# Argumentative Writing

1. Make a **claim**
2. Support your claim with **reasons/evidence**
3. Acknowledge the **counterclaim**
4. **Refute** the counterclaim  
*← Prove it wrong!*
5. **Conclude** with a strong statement



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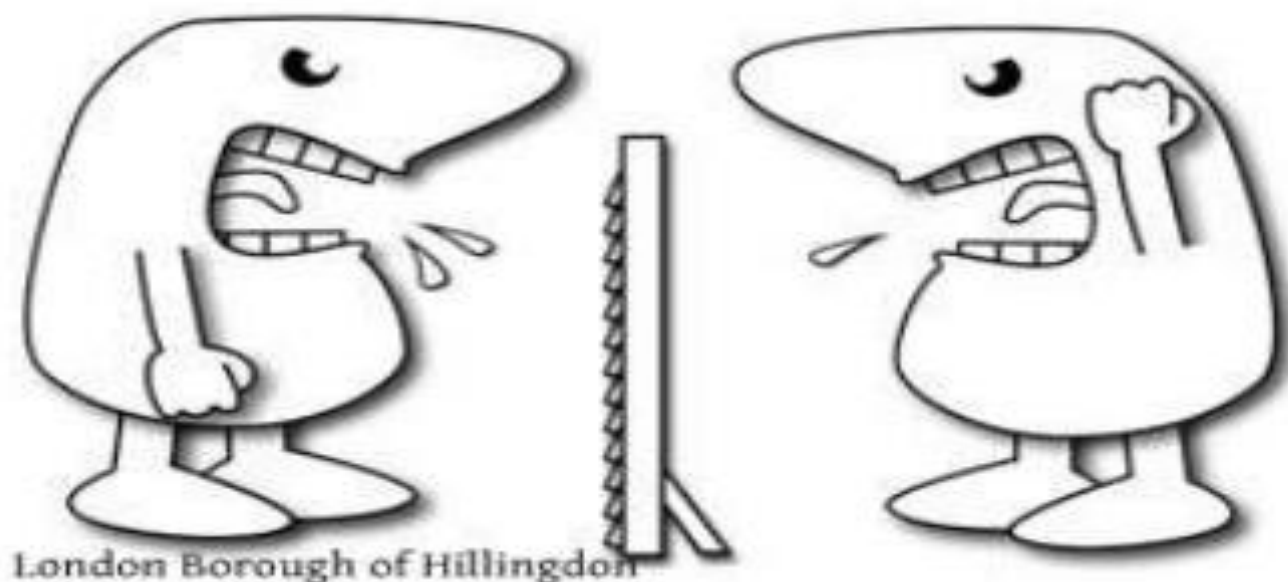


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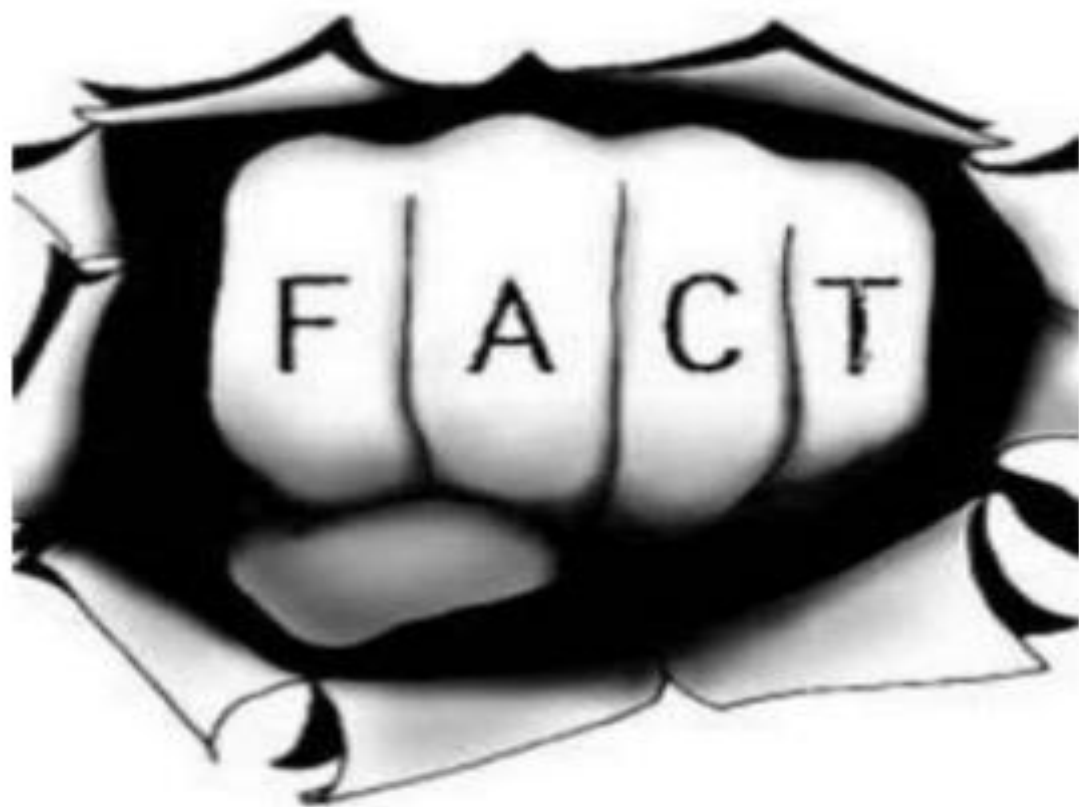
# Claim

- States the author's position on an issue.
- It must be debatable.
  - There is no “right” answer



# Support Your Claim

- An opinion is not enough
- **Writers must support their claims with reasons and evidence**





Tacos are better than pizza.



I believe \_\_\_\_\_.

Junk food should be illegal.



I believe \_\_\_\_\_.

Students should be held legally responsible for bullying in schools.



In my opinion, \_\_\_\_\_.



Smoking should be illegal.



I believe \_\_\_\_\_.

**Write down one of the claims you made in the previous exercise.**

**Use one of these sentence starters...**

**I believe** \_\_\_\_\_

**or**

**In my opinion** \_\_\_\_\_

Good Job! You've shown you  
are able to make a claim.



# Acknowledge the Counterclaim

- The counterclaim is the other side of the argument.



You are here  
with your claim.



What is his  
claim?

# Claim vs. Counterclaim

A claim is a statement of something as a fact; an assertion of truth.

\*Example:

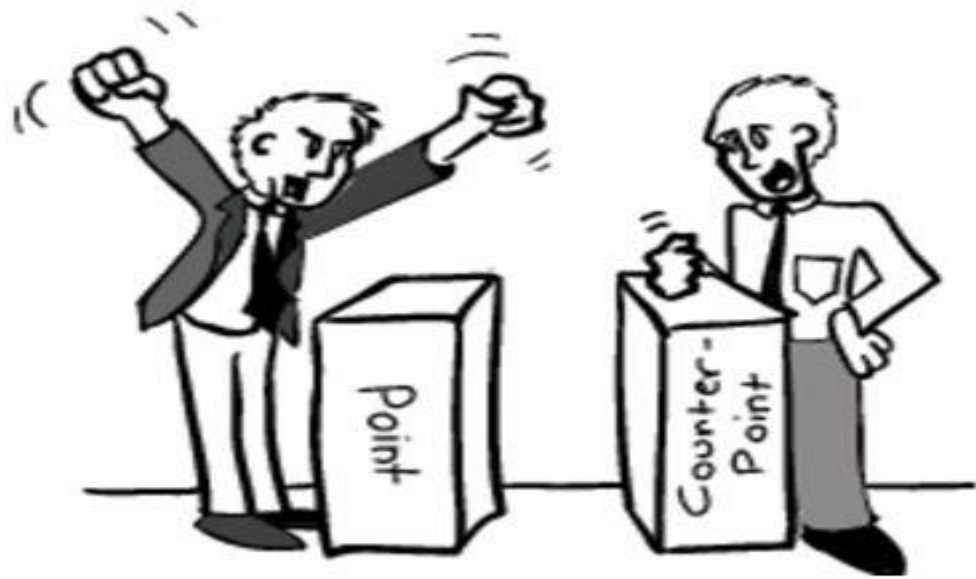
The minimum wage in America needs to be raised to provide Americans a better quality of life.

Counterclaim is an argument that negates the writer's claim.

\*Example:

By increasing the minimum wage, Americans will avoid attending college, decreasing the quality of life.

# COUNTERCLAIMS



- ▶ Opinions and evidence that others may bring up against your argument.
- ▶ Your claim: I should be able to go to the movies this weekend with my friends.
- ▶ Counterclaim (from your parents): You need to have all your chores done and finish your homework this weekend.


**Under the claim you wrote earlier write a counterclaim for it.**

**Use one of these sentence starters...**

**Others might argue that \_\_\_\_\_**

**or**

**I understand that point of view but \_\_\_\_\_**



# Acknowledge a Counterclaim

One viewpoint  
is ...

Many people  
think...  
support...  
argue...  
claim...

On one hand  
...

There is some  
support for  
the idea that  
...

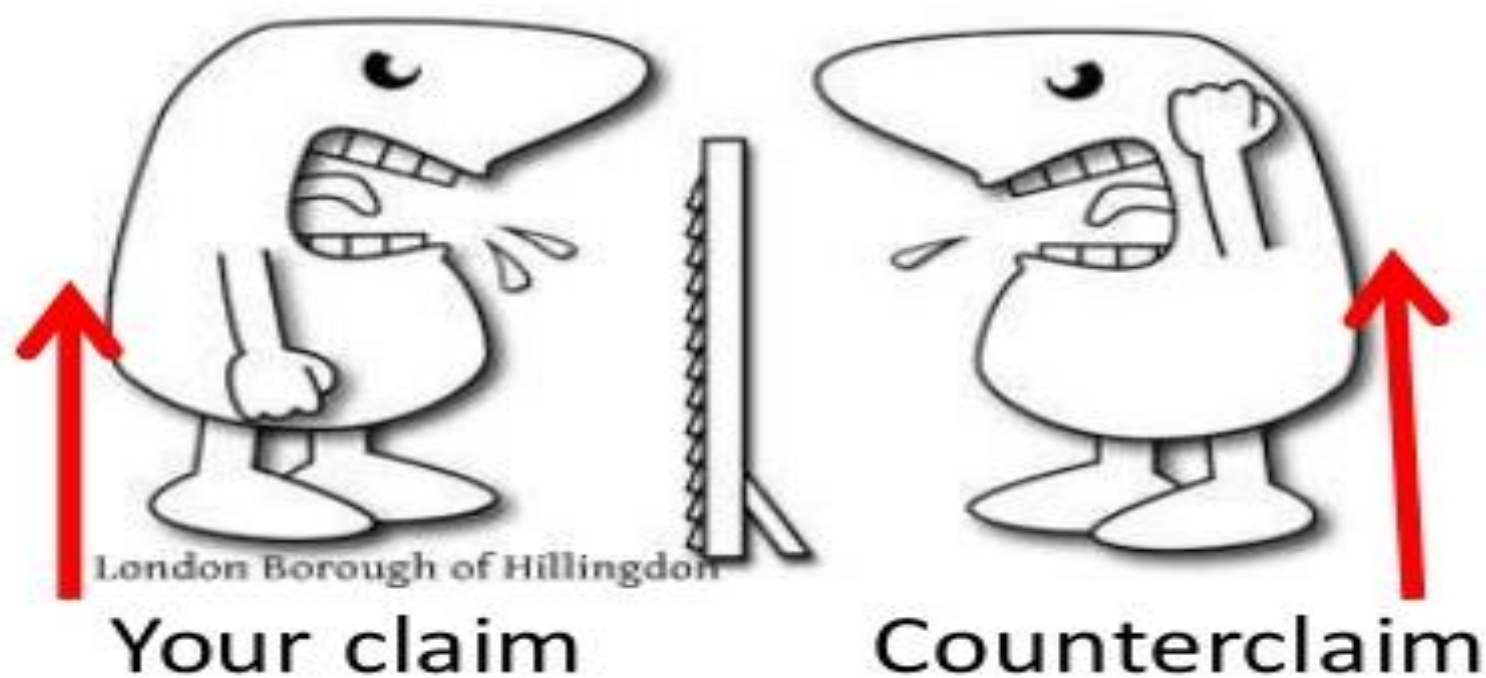
Granted, some  
might argue...  
support...  
believe...

It could be  
argued that  
...



# Refute the Counterclaim

- Address the concern of the counterclaim and explain why it's wrong.



If you can't think of a counterclaim, your argument is not debatable and should not be used.

# Conclude with a Strong Statement

- Main points are summarized and the reader is left with something to think about.



# Conclusion Strategies

- Call to Action
  - Ask the reader to do something or to make something happen “I challenge you to watch what you eat and to avoid fast food.”
- Provide a solution
  - Provide an answer to the problem “Fast food doesn’t have to be “bad food.” Make better choices like salads, fruit and low fat treats.”
- Make a Prediction
  - Explain what might be the consequences of action or inaction “If people continue to eat lots of fast food, they put their health at risk. If kids don’t make better choices today, they won’t grow into healthy adults.”

# Claims

- Cellphones are great for kids in schools.
- Homework should be required for every kid every night.
- All students must play a sport before they graduate from school.

# Counterclaims

- Cellphones should be left at home.
- The school days should be longer so nobody has to do homework.
- Nobody should be required to do extracurricular activities.