

Research Paper: Counterargument template

Sample Outline format for refutation:

- I. Refutation Topic Sentence: (Accurately state the counter argument); however, (refer to your argument) because (note the error/ fallacy).
 - A. Assertion: Allow the opposing position to speak their opinion (properly cited quote/paraphrase/summary)
 1. Explain counter argument
 2. Concede the truth that exists in the counter argument (Admittedly, Perhaps,..)
 3. Transition back to your argument (Nevertheless, In reality, Be that as it may, Then again, ...)
 - B. Re-assert the nature of your disagreement by pointing out the fallacy in their reasoning. (Is it obscure? Impossible? Illogical? Unfitting? Unprofitable?)
 1. Evidence your truth or their error
 2. Commentary / Explanation
 3. Conclude/ Transition (Therefore, As a result,...)

Sample refutation topic sentence:

Some might consider classical education unimportant or antiquated (**accurately state the counter argument – TURN AGAINST**), however, classical education proves not only necessary but relevant (**refer to your argument – TURN BACK**) because the modern age of standardized education does not take into account the crucial phases brain development, a foundational element of classical education (**note the error/fallacy**).

In plain English:

Some might consider classical education unimportant or antiquated, however classical education proves not only necessary but relevant because the modern age of standardized education does not take into account the crucial phases brain development, a foundational element of classical education.

Sample refutation paragraph (outline):

- I. Some might consider classical education unimportant or antiquated, however classical education proves not only necessary but relevant because the modern age of standardized education does not take into account the crucial phases brain development, a foundational element of classical education.
 - A. **Assertion of opposition:** According to a recent survey of public school educators, classical education has become “outdated” because it emphasizes “antiquated educational methods such as rote memorization” forces students to “learn dead languages such as Latin” and insists upon the study of ancient philosophers such as Aristotle and Plato (“Modern Education Rocks”).
 1. **Explain quote:** Opponents of Classical education insist that focusing classroom time on the memorization of random facts and millennial-old languages wastes valuable teaching time and fills students’ heads with random pieces of unnecessary information.
 2. **Concede the truth that exists in the counter argument:** Admittedly, if emphasizing memorization, Latin, and Aristotelian philosophy served no purpose, Classical education should face severe criticism.
 3. **Transition back to your argument:** In reality, however, these emphases serve an extremely important purpose.
 - B. **Re- assert the nature of your disagreement by pointing out the fallacy in their reasoning:** This argument against Classical education comes from a misunderstanding of the Classical method, otherwise known as the trivium, which divides learning into three states: grammar, dialectic, and rhetoric.
 1. **Evidence your truth or their error:** Whereas Classical education customizes education to the proven stages of brain development, public education ignores or downplays these stages. (“A Better Method”).
 2. **Commentary / Explanation:** Lacking (or ignoring) this understanding, modern educators develop curricula which frustrate and discourage students.
 3. **Conclude/ Transition:** Therefore, Classical education, though derived from ancient times, proves the superior method of education because it focuses more effectively on the physiology of learning.