

Writing Claims and Counterclaims

WRITING CLAIMS

Directions: Respond to each of the following questions with an answer in the form of a THESIS SENTENCE.

1. Should students be allowed to use their phones in school? Why or why not?
2. Should teachers motivate students to learn through positive rewards or through negative consequences? (You **cannot** choose both!)
3. What can be done to prevent bullying in middle schools?
4. Should the U.S. government allow refugees from the Middle East to come to America, even though some of them might be terrorists in disguise?

WRITING COUNTERCLAIMS

Directions: Write a COUNTERCLAIM for each claim below, a statement that argues against the claim given.

1. School uniforms make students safer and improve learning.
2. Football should be banned because it causes serious injuries like concussions.
3. The environment suffers because people destroy habitats, so we should make it illegal to destroy any habitats.
4. Schools should do more testing to determine whether students are learning.

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5. Teachers should reward students with candy to motivate them to learn.

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Directions: Write a CONCESSION (a counterclaim in an essay) for each of the thesis sentences you wrote in the first section of this worksheet. First COPY THE THESIS NEXT TO THE NUMBERS BELOW, and THEN write your counterclaim.

1.

2.

3.

WRAPPING IT UP:

Directions: Answer each question in complete sentences in your own words.

1. What is a claim?
2. What is a counterclaim?
3. Why should we include a counterclaim in our persuasive essays? How does it make our argument stronger?