

COUNTERCLAIM PAPER: What do *they* say?

Now that you've written an argument paper describing and explaining the seriousness of a problem that affects you and others, it's time to consider *another* perspective on that same problem. Your task here is to think about and research what someone who disagrees with you about the problem might say. But instead of looking for weak points in that opposing or different argument, you need to search for the *strongest* points of the counterclaim. In fact, you'll be making this counterclaim argument as powerfully as you did your initial argument. Note here that you don't need to agree with this new argument to make it, nor do I expect you to change your mind necessarily as you're writing this essay. The key is to truly understand and find the most convincing points of your opposition.

Using the problem you discussed in your Position Paper, write a 3-4 page essay that explains the strongest points of an alternative argument about that problem. Your paper must engage with at least **two secondary sources** and must also include either a **third-person anecdote or a hypothetical situation** that introduces the new argument on the topic. You will also include a distilled version of your initial argument from the Position Paper as a **counterclaim** in this essay.

You will complete this essay in a series of steps:

- 1) By Monday 10/21, post on Canvas your proposal.
- 2) On Monday 10/28 bring to class a short summary of the pathos secondary source you've found for your essay and the MLA works cited entry for that source.
- 3) On Wednesday 10/30, bring to class a short summary of the logos secondary source you've found for your essay and the MLA works cited entry for that source.
- 4) On Monday 11/4, bring two copies of the rough draft of your essay to class along with a list of three problems you're having with the essay and a Works Cited page listing your sources.
- 5) On Wednesday 11/6, your completed essay is due (submit a hard copy *and* an e-copy via email).

Length: 3-4 pages followed by a Works Cited page in MLA format.