

MURPHY BI-WEEKLY WRITING TIP

Counterarguments

Dear Murphy Students:

Last tip, we looked at what makes a good foundation for the common academic argument. This week, we look at how to build on that foundation, primarily through using *counterarguments*.

Counterarguments are arguments that go against or oppose yours.

For example: if you argue that public schooling is better than homeschooling, then a counterargument would explain the ways *homeschooling* is better than public schooling.

Why use counterarguments?

They strengthen your argument because they show you have **researched & thought about your topic in depth** by looking at different perspectives. [They also help you fill up pages!]

Questions to Ask

As you look for counterarguments, answer these two questions:

- ❑ What objections / other points of view might readers have?
- ❑ How would you respond to them?

How to Find Objections

- ❑ Read widely in your field and topic
 - *the more you read, the more perspectives you will find*
 - *try reading *tertiary sources like Wikipedia or textbooks*
- ❑ Target sources (books, articles, videos) whose conclusions **directly disagree** with yours
 - *as you search, use key terms like “for” or “against” – e.g., “arguments **against** public schooling”*
 - *“arguments **for** homeschooling”*

Sign Up for a One-On-One Tutoring Session

1. Visit <https://murphy.mywconline.net/>
2. [Register for an account](#)
3. Log in and select the “Writing Support (All Campuses)” calendar.
4. Choose any of the available white rectangles.
5. Fill out the form with your assignment info.

Jean Soto, Writing Specialist

Jean.Soto@slu.cuny.edu

(929) 265-2101

If you have questions or want to put this into practice, feel free to contact me! 😊