**PERSUASIVE STATEGY: The Counter-Argument
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How to Write a Counterargument

* **First ACKNOWLEDGE any ideas the opposition will likely raise:**
	+ *While this argument looks/sounds/seems convincing…*
	+ *While some might believe that…*
	+ *Although many supporters think that…*
	+ *Though it may be logical to assume…*
	+ *While it may be true that…*
	+ *Despite the common belief that…*
* **Then immediately DISMISS it with a strong TRIGGER word to shift direction:**
	+ *But*
	+ *However*
	+ *Nevertheless*
	+ *Still*
* **Followed by stronger evidence that officially dismisses the opposition’s contentions:**
	+ *…it does not take into account…*
	+ *…it does not consider…*
	+ *…it overlooks…*
	+ *…it encourages/discourages…*
	+ *…it is also possible that…*
	+ *…it could actually…*
	+ *…it does not change the fact that…*
	+ *…the benefits/drawbacks outweigh the benefits/drawbacks…*
	+ *…it is more practical to/impractical to…*
	+ *…it may be the only/best/most effective/last option…*
* **TIPS**
	+ Watch that you don't overdo it. A turn into counter-argument here and there will sharpen and energize your essay, but too many such turns will have the reverse effect by obscuring your main idea or suggesting that you're ambivalent.
	+ A second error is identifying a "counterargument" that is just a statement, not an argument at all.  "Some might say that constitutional checks and balances just weaken the government.  But as I've shown, that's not true."  Here, the first statement is simply that-a statement.  There's no evidence or logic to support the position.

***EXAMPLES***

***IMMIGRATION***

1. **While some people may argue** that the new Arizona Law is rooted in racism, i**t may be the most effective way** to strengthen the safety of U.S. borders, particularly because of the increasing violence from Mexican drug cartels who are now targeting American citizens.

***CHILD SOLDIERS***

1. **Despite** American efforts to provide international aid to weakened governments like Somalia, **it is possible that** this money may inadvertently be funding the use of child soldiers, since this region is so desperate for military support.

***SIN TAXES***

1. **Although** sin taxes **may** encourage Americans to make healthier lifestyle choices, officials **must also consider** the economic impact this will have; many of America’s big businesses like Coca-Cola will lose money, which ultimately makes the government lose revenue as well.

***BIRTHRIGHT CITIZENSHIP***

1. Denying birthright citizenship **may seem like the best way** to manage illegal immigration, **but** changing the law will actually increase the illegal population currently residing in the United States, a staggering 12 million people.

***TECHNOLOGY AND TEENS***

1. **While there is no doubt** the Internet has the power to distract modern teens, 81**%** of experts **polled** by the Pew Research Center support the idea that the opportunities this technology affords **far outweigh** the problems.
2. Students **might have** more access to the vast variety of knowledge the Internet affords, **but this does not change the fact that** at least one-third of the teen population admits to using technology to cheat on assignments.

***ROMA RIGHTS***

1. **Even though** wealthier countries like France blame the Roma and view them as criminals, deporting this minority group by the thousands is **a far greater injustice than** the petty theft for which they’ve been accused.

***ABOLISHING CHINGLISH***

1. **Although** Chinese officials view Chinglish as a national embarrassment, the language itself is part of Chinese culture and, according to some research experts, **it even** provides a “window into the Chinese mind.” Getting rid of it would be counter-productive the linguistic evolution taking place in this region.

***FIGHTING TERRORISM***

1. **Despite** promises to the United States to help fight against terrorist insurgents, the Pakistani government actually created the Taliban in the 1990s to gain influence in Afghanistan, so it is plausible to assume that they have continued to provide aid to these extremists since the war began in 2001.

***CUBA’S ECONOMY***

1. Cuba’s economy **might be** showing signs of progress for the first time in decades, **but** it is still a long way from the freedoms that American democracy enjoys, and ideally, Raul Castro hopes to pursue political structures similar to China and Vietnam, not the United States.

***BODY SCANNERS***

1. **Though** full-body scanners are becoming **increasingly common** in airports across the nation, American citizens **are still skeptical** about the invasive nature of these devices, **which can actually** save and store electronic images of a traveler’s naked body for employees to see.

***ELECTRIC CARS***

1. Electric cars **might be** practical for local commutes, **but** they prove highly inefficient for anyone travelling farther distances for work or leisure.

***HEALTH***

1. **Even though** South Los Angeles instituted a ban on fast food restaurants, **this still doesn’t eliminate** the 1,000 chain restaurants in the South LA region that already exist; the ban **would not** shut these locations down, **so** consumers **still have** a plethora of options regarding cheap, but unhealthy, lunch and dinner options.
2. **While** **some** consumers view fast food restaurant bans as a stretch beyond the proper role of government, Americans are **clearly** losing the fight against obesity on their own, with a third of the population diagnosed as overweight or obese.