

# Tips for the Counterargument

Anticipating and addressing arguments from opposing views can be a very powerful and argumentative technique. Below are some tips for writing counterarguments.

- Appeal to readers' senses and emotions and provide details for support.
- Address only a few opposing points. You don't want your essay to be filled with views that are against yours.
- Select the strongest opposing points you can confidently argue against.
- Avoid using a bandwagon defense. "Everyone else is doing it" is not a credible argument.
- Be passionate about your stance.
- Leave no doubt in readers' minds that your views on the issue are correct.

# Counterarguments for “Extending the School Year” Essay

School officials who are in favor of extending the school year into the summer argue that students need more instructional time to meet the high educational standards in this country. However, there is no evidence that suggests students who attend 200 days of schooling perform better academically than those attending the average 180 days. In fact, many teachers will admit to finishing the curriculum 3 to 4 weeks before the end of the school year. Jennifer Hayden, a teacher in the Syracuse school district, says that many teachers spend the last few weeks of school reviewing the year’s curriculum and preparing the class for final exams.