

# ADDRESSING OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

Opposing views, or counter-arguments, challenge your own stance. The counter-argument helps ensure thorough logic. Lest your argument appear one-sided, you must explore multiple angles of issues and consider their possible refutations.

When the opposing views are handled well, they do the following:

- Show understanding and respect
- Make your writing credible
- Help readers to empathize with your reasoning

## PRESENTATION

When presenting an opposing view, it can become counterproductive if it is not handled well. Be sure to always speak of the opposing arguments in these ways:

- Respectfully
- Fairly
- Objectively
- Accurately
- Distinctively (i.e. clearly not your argument)

## REFUTATION

It is not enough to state other notions about an issue. You must refute them, or show that your logic negates contrary options. When you present an opposing view, use the following format:

1. Opposing view
2. Refutation based on your argument
3. Evidence supporting the refutation

First, present the opposing view. Next, present your own argument, clearly showing why you disagree with the opposing view. Finally, (perhaps most importantly) provide logical evidence that supports your rebuttal.

## PLACEMENT

While much of your writing will focus on your own argument, there are several, equally valid places where you can insert the opposing views:

- In the introduction, before presenting your own assertion—the thesis
- In the paragraph after the introduction, before addressing your own argument
- Throughout the body paragraphs, addressing possible objections *as* your ideas unfold
- After your point has been made, before the conclusion