



DEVELOPING AND REFUTING A COUNTERCLAIM

EXAMPLE

ESSAY CLAIM:

Global warming is a major problem for us all to be concerned about and NYC should be doing more to prepare for its effects.

WHAT IS A COUNTERCLAIM THAT SOMEONE WOULD USE AGAINST YOUR CLAIM?

Global Warming is not happening and NYC should not waste money to prepare for it.

What evidence would someone give for their counterclaim?	Why is the counterclaim and evidence not valid or not as convincing as your claim?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The earth goes through regular warming spells. • Data is based on trends over only a few centuries. • It will be expensive for NYC to prepare for Global Warming and it is not worth it. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who deny that global warming is occurring are ignoring the effects of pollution and CO2 on our environment. • They also ignore the dramatic changes that have validated scientists' predictions. • It is better to begin preparing now, even if we aren't yet feeling the effects of global warming, because it will cost much more in the future if we do nothing.

EXAMPLE COUNTERCLAIM PARAGRAPH:

Others may say that global warming is not happening and NYC should not waste money to prepare for it. They argue that the earth goes through regular warming spells and this one is no different than others. They also say that the data scientists are using is based on only a short period of time. Finally, people might argue it is too expensive for NYC to prepare for global warming and it is not worth the cost.

However, these counter arguments to global warming deny the dramatic effects that CO2 and other pollutants have on the environment. They also ignore the dramatic changes in temperature and ice levels that have occurred, following scientists' predictions. Finally, it is going to be much more cost effective in the future to prepare now even if some money is wasted than wait and have to pay after the effects of global warming have been felt in the city.



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