Plan for the Counterargument

The best defense is a good offense.

1. Acknowledge validity of opposition’s point
2. Present counterpoint that explains why the opposition’s point is not as valid as the point you are making. Include evidence from text as support.

- Of course... however... as a result... This was seen when...
- Sure... nevertheless... in addition...
- It is true that... however... therefore... One can see this...
- Admittedly... on the other hand... as a result... This was most evident
Plan for the Counterargument

**Claim**

IF the other side says ...

Laptops can be easily broken.

THEN we will respond by saying ...

It is true that laptops are fragile and can be easily broken. On the other hand, students already understand how easily electronic devices can be broken as most of them have sophisticated cell phones. I believe that entrusting the students with the responsibility of taking care of equipment they enjoy using will motivate them to be responsible.

**Notes:**
- Missing evidence
- Uses "I believe"
Elaboration Map

Counterargument

- Quote supporting the counterargument
- Refute the quote with evidence & a quote
- Explain or give example of your counterpoint
- Why is your reasoning/claim valid?

If the other side says statement

This acknowledges (validity of) the oppositions POV

This is your counterpoint. Your Yes, but . . .

This is your counterpoint. Your Yes, but . . .
Shut Down Your Screen

**Opening:** Grabs the reader’s attention, sets the context/defines the issue, acknowledges the other POV, defines the issue—states the problem, provides a Thesis Statement w/ a proposal

Negatives: shouldn’t use “I believe,” nor “I think”

- Reason 1
- Reason 2
- Counter

**L I C E**

- Quote article to support COUNTER
- THEN REFUTE quote with an explanation
- TMM—prove/support *why is the explanation correct*
- Closure—explain position, provide more validity

OR you can blow it out into a full map. Next slide.
Some templates for countering . . .

- Critics argue that . . . although . . .
- While it may be true that . . . still all in all...
- Others may say that . . .; however, . . .
- A common argument against this position is . . . but . . .
- It may be true that. . . ; however, . . .
- It is easy to think that . . ., but the facts suggest . . .
- While some people say. . . , they fail to address . . .
- It is often thought that . . ., but in reality . . .
- Some object that ____. Although one may see their point, others may maintain that _____.
- Many people believe that _____; however,. . . .
- Her/his argument is that _____. While one can understand her/his point of view, it is important to remember that _____.
- It has been stated that _____. On the other hand, the facts present ...
Plan for the Counterargument

Counterargument #1

If the other side says.....

Then I will respond by saying...

People suffer in silence and become depressed.

A common argument against this position says that people suffer in silence and become depressed. Danielle Bilotta, author of “Cyberbullying and the Bystander Effect: The Dark Side of Social Media,” agrees that social media contributes to a lack of involvement. She wrote that “teens suffer in silence due to fear . . . “ This is important because it shows that some people choose to suffer in silence, meaning that one has a choice. Their fear of speaking up and being judged by others grows. Yes, this may be true, but people make their own choices; people do not have to become what others think of them. Some people would argue that most do not suffer from fear. “The Bystander Effect and Social Media” reported studies showing just this: they reported that “people responded with comments, encouragement . . .” Social media gives people a voice. It gets people more involved, and more bystanders report for the simple reason that they choose to speak up and help one another. If we speak up, we can reduce the number of bystanders, proving other studies wrong.
Social media **does not** contribute to an individual’s lack of concern or involvement with others.

**Plan for the Counterargument**

**Counterargument #1**

If the other side says.....

Then I will respond by saying...

**Bonds are largely virtual**

Some say that social media bonds are largely virtual. This has truth behind it, as on social media you can go from person to person, speaking with them, then quickly move along. “There’s no substitute for the real social deal – folks you’ve actually met in person, with whom you’ve shared experiences and built intimacy that goes beyond the surface chatter.” Summarized, most social media bonds are like Legos; relationships can easily be created or destroyed . . . While this point of view may have some validity behind it, others would disagree. Comparatively, the internet can be a great place to make friends. You can find swarms of people just like you who you can share ideas with and grow close to. Even if you are socially awkward, you can easily communicate with others.
Shut Down Your Screen

**Opening:** Grabs the reader’s attention, Sets the context/defines the issue, Acknowledges the other POV, defines the issue—states the problem, provides a Thesis Statement w/ a proposal
Do not use “I believe” nor “I think.”

- Reason 1
- Reason 2 Best
- Counter

Closing:
Over the decades, video games have developed into a form of entertainment enjoyed by millions. There are now more types of video games than ever for children and teenagers to choose from to pass the time. However, a disturbing trend has taken place: people have accepted the expanded availability and variety of violent video games. If we do not ban the sale of violent video games to minors, we are allowing children to be further exposed to violence, and this can have the detrimental effect of desensitizing them towards violence. The blood, fighting, and abusive language of these video games teaches young players that violence should be accepted as a part of life when they should instead be actively taught to resist it.
Many people presume that a bystander assumes as much guilt as the person who commits the act itself. The key word in this discussion involves the word “as.” Simply put, a bystander who knowingly allows a harmful deed to occur may be guilty of something, but not equal to the guilt of a perpetrator. Martin Luther King once stated that, “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent.” Wise words indeed, but if this statement rang completely true, then witnesses would be in jail, along with the criminals. From a logical viewpoint, seeing harmful actions take place does not rise to the same level as the commission of the act itself. Hence, bystanders do not have as much culpability for the outcome of the crime as the perpetrator has for executing the harmful deed or deeds.
Some applicable quotes to use a grabber:

- “We have technology, finally, that for the first time in human history allows people to really maintain rich connections with much larger numbers of people.” – Pierre Omidyar, founder, eBay
- “The Internet has been the most fundamental change during my lifetime and for hundreds of years.” – Rupert Murdoch, media mogul
- “Imagine a world in which every single person on the planet is given free access to the sum of all human knowledge.” – Jimmy Wales, founder, Wikipedia
- “Social media is a savior not a nemesis, an asset not a liability, a time saver not a time killer for ad agency new business” – Michael Gass, new business consultant for advertising agencies
- “The web attacks traditional ways of doing things and elites, and this is very uncomfortable for traditional businesses to deal with.” – Sir Martin Sorrell, CEO, WPP Group
- “Don’t measure what you can. Measure what you should.” – Philip Sheldrake, blogger, marketer, web analytics specialist
- “People influence people. Nothing influences people more than a recommendation from a trusted friend. A trusted referral influences people more than the best broadcast message. A trusted referral is the Holy Grail of advertising.” – Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook
Some applicable quotes to use a grabber:

- Social media is the ultimate equalizer. It gives a voice and a platform to anyone willing to engage. Amy Jo Martin
- Smart phones and social media expand our universe. We can connect with others or collect information easier and faster than ever. Daniel Goleman
- Social media is not about the exploitation of technology but service to community. Simon Mainwaring
- “When you give everyone a voice and give people power, the system usually ends up in a really good place.” Mark Zuckerberg
- “As more people use social media to tell the story of the future, the wants and needs of more people will be reflected.” Simon Mainwaring
- “It’s because of this fundamental shift towards user-generated information that people will listen more to other people than to traditional resources.” Eric Schmidt, ex-CEO Google
Opening Strategies:

- The 5 W’s – the who, what, when, where and why of a situation or issue
- An interesting fact – giving a piece of information to stimulate the reader’s interest
- Taking a stand – asserting the writer’s point of view or position
- An anecdote or scenario – a short description of a situation or story illustrating a particular point
- A brief history or overview – giving the background information needed to understand the situation
- A question – asking the reader a thought-provoking question to engage interest
- A quotation or dialogue – using the exact words of a person or relating a conversation with the person that is relevant to the point being stressed
- A contrasting situation – presenting opposing sides/opinions of the situation
- A description – giving specific, vivid details to help the reader visualize the situation
- Stating the timeliness, significance, or relevance of the issue
- Combining two or more strategies above to increase the impact on the reader