



Refute Paragraph

Refutation is

An important rhetorical skill used in argumentative writing to re-establish the writer's ethos in the readers' eyes and to strengthen the writer's argument.

Refutation is contradiction/invalidating an opposing argument.

1. When the writer uses the fully developed type of the thesis statement, he/she presents also the opposing argument. **This is called acknowledging the counterargument.**

2. However, the writer can take an initiative to not only acknowledge the counterargument, but also to validate and agree to some certain aspects of the opposing argument. **This is called making concession.**

3. Yet, the writer can take a step further and disapprove the opposing viewpoint. **This is called to rebuttal the opposition.**

Remember: A strong argumentative essay/ research paper not only **acknowledges the counterargument** and **presents concession by validating certain aspects of the opposing viewpoint**, but also **rebuttals to disapprove the contrasting viewpoint** and thus reestablishes and strengthens his/ her own argument.

- Refutation paragraph is found only in the body part of argumentative essays/research papers.
- It strengthens the ethos (writer's credibility) and the argumentative paper by showing the audience/ reader that the writer considered both sides of the argument thoroughly before taking a position and making a claim
- It also allows to re-establish the writer's position in the light of the opposite side

You will need to compose a refute paragraph (5-8 sentences) as one of the body paragraphs of your paper. If you want to refute on any of the reasons developed in a body paragraph, place your refute paragraph after that specific body paragraph; otherwise, have your refute paragraph as you Body 4 (before the conclusion) if you are presenting the refutation on the overall topic/argument of your paper/thesis.

Refute Paragraph Template

5 Steps to Strengthen Your Argument

(For each step you can have 1-3 sentences)

1. Show acknowledgement

Start your paragraph by introducing the opposing argument. Honestly summarize the opponent's viewpoint.

You may start with: **It is often argued that....**

It is true that...

Opposing views claim that...

2. Make Concession:

Validate and agree to some certain aspects of the opposing argument

You may start with: **Admittedly,...**

Certainly,...
One cannot deny that...
At the same time...

3. Rebuttal the Counterargument

Explain the weakest points of the counterargument contrasting with your argument.
Bring evidence or example to show the other opinion is incorrect or irrelevant. Explain.

You may start with: **However,**
Nevertheless,
On the other hand, ...
But...

4. Re-establish Your (the writer's position) in the light of the opposite side

Summarize why the counter argument is not a sufficient solution

You may start with: **Thus,...**
Therefore,...

5. Conclude: Re-emphasize the importance of considering your argument

Restate your position.

You may start with: **As a result, ...**
Consequently, ...
