

Refute Paragraph

REFUTATION IS AN IMPORTANT RHETORICAL SKILL USED IN TO RE-ESTABLISH THE WRITER'S ETHOS IN THE STRENGTHEN THE WRITER'S ARGUMENT.



ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING READERS' EYES AND TO

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.

Consider the step-by-step 4-sentence Refute and the Sample Refute Paragraph below.

Refute Paragraph Template

4 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. State that some may prefer the opponent's viewpoint (or may believe that the other choice is preferable.)

- 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. Present one reason that may make the opposite choice preferable.

- You may start with: **Admittedly,...**
Certainly,...
One cannot deny that...
At the same time...

3. REBUTTAL THE COUNTERARGUMENT

Explain a weak point in the advantage of the counterargument OR choose one of your supporting reasons (from your thesis) and state how your reason/ benefit of your choice outweigh the advantage of the opposite argument.

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

Re-state that your argument is more preferable, or summarize why the counter argument is not a sufficient solution/ preferable option.

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

SEE A SAMPLE REFUTE BELOW:

Essay topic: **Some people like to do only what they already do well. Others prefer to try new things and take risks.**

- Choose which do you prefer. **Leave that choice aside. You will use the opposite for Refute.**
- Pick the opposite opinion – the counterargument.

- Consider that (the opposite claim) for developing a refute paragraph! Remember the important sentences of the refute paragraph and the key words for how to start them:

1. **Acknowledge-** *It is true that*
2. **Validate (+) (show some advantage for the opposite choice)** *One cannot deny that ...*
3. **Find a Weakness in the(- in the +)** *However,*

Or state that the advantage of your choice outweighs the advantage(s) of the opposite

4. **Show Your choice is better by re-sating & reestablishing your claim:** *Therefore,....*

It is true that trying new things can also be a good option. One cannot deny that, when we try new things, we develop new skills. However, the importance of being more experienced in what we do well outweighs this advantage. Therefore, I choose and recommend doing what we already do well.