**THIS IS A CLASS SET. DO NOT WRITE ON THIS OR TAKE IT FROM THE ROOM. PLEASE WRITE ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER.**

ARGUMENTATIVE RESEARCH PAPER: Counter-Argument

Below is the *proposed* outline of the research paper. Please note the entire paragraph dedicated to an oppositional perspective and the refutation of that argument. It is your job as a researcher to find information that your opposition will “throw” at your arguments and prove it wrong.

1. Introduction
2. Lead-In: Suggested Options to Choose From:
3. Quotation(s)
4. Question(s)
5. Anecdote (from your experience or reading)
6. Myths ("Most people think that . . . ; but in fact . . .)
7. Reference to text (e.g., one of the essays)
8. Statistics, Quick Background to Issue
9. Introduce and identify the controversy *within* your subject.
10. Thesis - **YOUR** position on the controversy.

II. Background Paragraph

1. Topic Sentence
2. Definitions, Background Information (*e.g.,* What is meant by "single-payer health insurance" or Medicaid/Medicare; who is affected by it; how long has it been in existence); not too much of this, just enough so that the reader has a clear understanding of the issue.
3. Explain any implicit values that need to be made explicit and defended (*e.g.,* Government has an important role to play in freeing us from irresponsible advertising; we cannot simply leave it up to the law of the marketplace.).
4. Concluding sentence w/ transition to Opposition/Objection/Counter-Argument paragraph or Reason #1

III. Opposition/Objection/Counter-Argument Paragraph

*The 3rd paragraph can be moved according to the fluidity of the essay.*

1. Topic Sentence – an acknowledgment of perspective(s) other than your position
2. Succinct summary of opposing position
3. Quote/paraphrase
4. Commentary of quote/paraphrase/C
5. Concluding Sentence w/ transition to purpose of essay/reflection of thesis statement

IV. Reason #1: First Sub-Argument or Area of Evidence Supporting Your Position (*second* strongest argument)

1. Topic sentence
2. Quote and/or paraphrase #1
3. Commentary for quote/paraphrase/B
4. Quote/paraphrase #2
5. Commentary for quote/paraphrase/D
6. Concluding Sentence w/ transition to next argument

V. Reason #2: Second Sub-Argument or Area of Evidence Supporting Your Position (*strongest* argument)

1. Topic sentence
2. Quote and/or paraphrase #1
3. Commentary for quote/paraphrase/B
4. Quote/paraphrase #2
5. Commentary for quote/paraphrase/D
6. Concluding Sentence

VI. CONCLUSION: Recommendations and Conclusions

1. Concession to the opposition (One to two sentences)
2. Restate argument in light of material covered above. Show once and for all how the evidence leads to the conclusion and a recommended course of action.
3. Lead-out: Suggested Options to choose from:
4. Look to the future
5. Return to subject of lead-in and now look to a better future
6. Excellent final quote or astute observation

So what is the counter-argument? How do I use it?

**Directions**: Complete each section in the order given. Do not skip a section as all portions are important. ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER, record your answers. Organize your paper as suggested by the activity below.

***IN THE LITERATURE BOOK,***

1. Turn to page 679 and write the definition of counter-argument as suggested in the notes at the top of the page labeled “Elements of Nonfiction: Counter-arguments.”
2. Before answering questions about the counter-arguments used in the AMA article, perhaps a review of the content is necessary. If so, you could read the right hand column of page 679 labeled “Background: American Medical Association” and “Animal Rights Versus Animal Welfare.” This may jog your memory.
3. Turn to page 680 to find the beginning of the article called “Use of Animals in Biomedical Research.” Throughout the piece on pages 681, 683, and 684, questions are asked in the margins labeled in red “counter-arguments” (questions B, F, and I). Answer these 3 questions to test your understanding of the counter-arguments as used in the article.
4. Turn to page 685. Except for the reviewing of the chart that we did not make, find and answer the question 10 about evaluating the counter-argument, “Does the AMA offer a satisfactory counter-argument to this viewpoint? Cite evidence to support your opinion.”
5. Close and put the literature book on the corner of your desk.

***IN THE GRAMMAR BOOK,***

1. Turn to page 204 and read about “Gathering Objections” and “Countering an Objection.”
2. Write 3 ideas that are helpful from the instruction given on page 204.
3. At the bottom of page 204, find the section “Counter an important objection.” Complete the activity. Feel free to look back at your journal as what you wrote may be helpful in completing the activity.
4. Close and put the grammar book on the corner of the desk on top of the literature book.

***MAKE SURE TO WRITE YOUR NAME ON YOUR PAPER AND TURN IT INTO THE BASKET BEFORE YOU LEAVE. DO NOT TAKE THIS CLASS SET PAPER WITH YOU. MAKE SURE TO TURN IT IN ALSO IN THE APPROPRIATE BASKET. MAKE SURE TO PUT AWAY YOUR JOURNAL BEFORE YOU LEAVE ALSO.***

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*SUGGESTED ORGANIZATION OF YOUR IN CLASS ASSIGNMENT:*

Name

Class period

Date

Counter-Argument Activity

Definition of counter-argument, pg. 679 (literature book)

AMA article

Pg. 681:B –

Pg. 683: F –

Pg. 684: I –

Pg. 685:10 –

“Gathering Objections” and “Countering an Objection,” pg. 204 (grammar book)

Three Helpful Ideas:

1.

2.

3.

“Counter an Important Objection” –