

Counterargument Body Paragraph – Example/Demonstration

Here is an example of a counterargument paragraph that academic writers would place immediately before the conclusion paragraph. **NOTE:** this is NOT a “conclusion paragraph;” it is a “counterargument paragraph.” Academic essays still need a formal conclusion paragraph following this counterargument paragraph.

Identifies and acknowledges a counterargument (opposing view) in the topic sentence

Some scholars and researchers claim that there are negative impacts of technology on a child’s developing mind. According to one research study, psychologist Arthur Anderson claims “Moderate evidence also suggests that early exposure to purely entertainment content, and media violence in particular, is negatively associated with cognitive skills and academic achievement” (8). Although there is validity to the

presented argument, **this theory excludes educationally driven programming, some of which is specifically designed to educate children beyond what they might experience by age-appropriate schooling alone.** There is incredible value in formal education and the public school system; **however, classroom modalities are not the only way children learn**

Responds to the counter-argument

about the world around them. Educational stimuli can come in the form of direct contact

with a teacher, reading a book, or by watching a program. For example, a student learning about the number three can find value in hearing a teacher explain mathematical values of the number, by reading a book which illustrates a visual example of the number, and by watching a program with a catchy song about the number three. In his eBook *Children's Learning From Educational Television: Sesame Street and Beyond*, Fisch describes how some television programs are types of informal education, “much like educational activities that children find in magazines, museums, or after-school programs” (9). While a good deal of education takes place in the classroom, television

Adds example and credible evidence to show opposing view is incomplete and not considering alternatives

can be used to supplement the academic experience. When presented in an informal and entertaining way, this supplemental material can help students become more engaged in topics, and more willing to delve into deeper consideration of concepts. Early learners may also be introduced to subject matter that is not typically introduced until later phases of formal schooling, if at all (Fisch 24). Children and adolescents may also find value in television news programming which provides information on current events, such as Nickelodeon network's program titled *Nick News*. This show detailed topical information, such as politics and environmental issues, in an entertaining televised format which was geared to children and adolescents (Fisch 36). **With all this considered, television and other forms of technology should not be dismissed as petty entertainment; the potential to present educational information in this medium is possibly immeasurable.**

More evidence provided here

More evidence provided here

Connects back to the writer's main claim /thesis statement.

Adapted from:
Ashford University Writing Center, 2019. writingcenter.ashford.edu/counterargument