

Name _____

Period _____

1. Many teachers say, "There is never enough time to teach it all!" Because of this complaint, the school board is considering adding an hour to each school day. Write a letter expressing your opinion about whether or not you think it is a good idea or a bad idea. Be sure to give convincing reasons and examples of your opinion.

Write a claim:

Write a counterclaim and one point to refute:

2. Do you think that children who play violent video games are more likely to behave violently? Some people think this is true. Write an essay to convince consumers that this way of thinking is either untrue and the games should continue to be sold or that it is true and the games should not be sold. Be sure to give reasons with specific examples and details to support your opinion.

Write a claim:

Write a counterclaim and one point to refute:

3. In the past few years, online college courses have become more and more popular. Imagine that your high school offers students the choice of taking online courses instead of coming to school for classes. Would you choose the online option? Write an essay explaining your position on the issue.

Write a claim:

Write a counterclaim and one point to refute:

4. The law requires all people riding in cars to wear their seat belts at all times. Those who do not abide by this law can be ticketed and fined. Some people say that whether they wear a seatbelt should be their decision. What is your opinion on this issue? Do you agree or disagree with the seatbelt law? Write an essay about your position on this issue. Give convincing reasons for your position.

Write a claim:

Write a counterclaim and one point to refute:

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5. Because of concerns about childhood obesity and the health problems it causes, many schools have removed from campus all vending machines that sell sodas and snacks. Do you agree with this strategy or do you think vending machines should stay in schools, giving people the choice to buy from them or not? Write a letter to the editor of your local paper about your position on the issue. Give convincing reasons for your position.

Write a claim:

Write a counterclaim and one point to refute:

6. Many districts have considered keeping schools open year-round, and some already do. This type of schedule means that summers are much shorter than with the traditional calendar, but breaks in the fall and spring are longer. For example, instead of ten weeks of vacation in the summer, you may get just five weeks. Days off totaling five or more weeks are also given at various times during the year. Imagine that your local school board is considering adopting a year-round school calendar. Write a speech telling the board members how you feel about the change and why.

Write a claim:

Write a counterclaim and one point to refute:

7. Some of the parents at your school have started a campaign to limit the homework that teachers can assign to students. Teachers at your school have argued that the homework is necessary. What is your position? Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper stating your position and supporting it with convincing reasons.

Write a claim:

Write a counterclaim and one point to refute:

8. Your local public library has come under criticism for allowing patrons under the age of 18 to check out books that are unacceptable. The books are either explicit, describe graphic violence, or use questionable language. Most recently, a high school senior checked out James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The student's parents did not approve of the student reading the book and complained to the town council. As a result, the council is considering removing all questionable books from the library. What is your position on this issue? Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper stating your position and supporting it with convincing reasons.

Write a claim:

Write a counterclaim and one point to refute:

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