

## ARGUMENTATIVE/PERSUASIVE ESSAY

### COUNTERARGUMENT PARAGRAPH

**Purpose:** To acknowledge the opposition to your claim; To anticipate and to respond to possible objections

**Length:** Usually 1-2 paragraphs long

**Format:**

**1. Topic Sentence:**

- Acknowledge that there may be an opposite, or different, opinion on the same issue. Usually one sentence. If you feel that you need to elaborate a little more, do so here (2<sup>nd</sup> sentence).

**2. Anticipated objection 1:**

- Recognize one possible objection that the opposition may have.  
- Elaborate briefly on their argument.  
This part should be brief, as you need to place the focus on rebuttals, not on objections.

**3. Rebuttal**

- Effectively argue/prove why the objection is invalid.  
This part must be at least 2-3 sentences long. Explain and elaborate on all of your points.

**4. Anticipated objection 2:**

- Recognize another possible objection that the opposition may have.  
- Elaborate briefly on their argument.

**5. Rebuttal**

- Effectively argue/prove why the second objection is invalid.

**6. Sum up**

- Wrap up this paragraph by touching back on YOUR claim/argument (different words, same idea).

## ARGUMENTATIVE/PERSUASIVE ESSAY

*THESIS: Driving age should be moved up to eighteen. acknowledgement*

*COUNTERARGUMENT PARAGRAPH (antithesis and rebuttals):*

On the contrary, numerous people believe that the driving age should stay at 16. Why do they deem this to be so? The supporters of the driving age remaining at 16 argue that they are comfortable with the current driving age and believe that it is not doing any harm to the community. Statistics show, however, that 16 year olds have higher crash rates than any other driving age (“Comparative Analysis of Crash Rates”). This clearly illustrates that keeping the driving age at 16 will cause more turmoil and burden on the society. It is also estimated that 16 year olds are three times more likely to die in a motor vehicle crash than the average of all drivers (Brennon and Lloyd). This alone proves that people who believe that the driving age should remain unchanged are fundamentally wrong. Another reason why some believe that the driving age should remain the same has a lot to do with convenience of transportation. The proponents argue that teens need a vehicle at 16 to get to school and other locations. Yet, these students can simply ride the bus. Buses are provided for all student and are actively used by those who do not have their own car to drive or do not have any other means of transportation like family and friends. Also, if a child must go to another location besides school, he or she can receive a ride from a parent or an older sibling. In addition, many places offer public transportation such as bussing, carpools, and taxi services. Clearly, this supports the idea that if a 16 year old has a job, he or she does not necessarily need a license to drive a car to get there.