

Some things to remember:

- **Make the counterclaim real.**

You will not fool anyone by misrepresenting people who disagree with you; in fact, you will only weaken your own position because you will appear to fear the truth. Bring up a counterclaim that represents a (seemingly) valid objection to your claim.

- **Never write a counterclaim you cannot rebut.**

Bringing up the opposing viewpoint and then failing to show why it is wrong will cause your audience to doubt that your position is the only right one (which is the point of persuasion, after all).

- **Make it clear that you do not agree with the counterclaim.**

Do not allow your audience to think you are simply contradicting yourself. How can you persuade someone to accept your claim if you sound like you do not completely accept it?

- **Do not repeat a reason you have already given to rebut the counterclaim.**

The rebuttal should focus specifically on the objection in the counterclaim. If you merely repeat what you have already said, your audience will assume you cannot think of an effective response.

- **You are allowed to have more than one rebuttal.**

The more reasons you can give to show that the counterclaim is wrong, the better.

Topic	Claim/Thesis (One side) (FOR OR AGAINST)	Counterclaim (What would the other side say?)	Evidence (reason why counterclaim is wrong)
School Uniforms			
Smoking Cigarettes			
Videogames			

# Brainstorm...

CLAIM

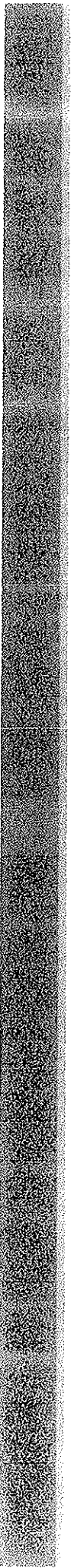
COUNTERS

SOLUTIONS

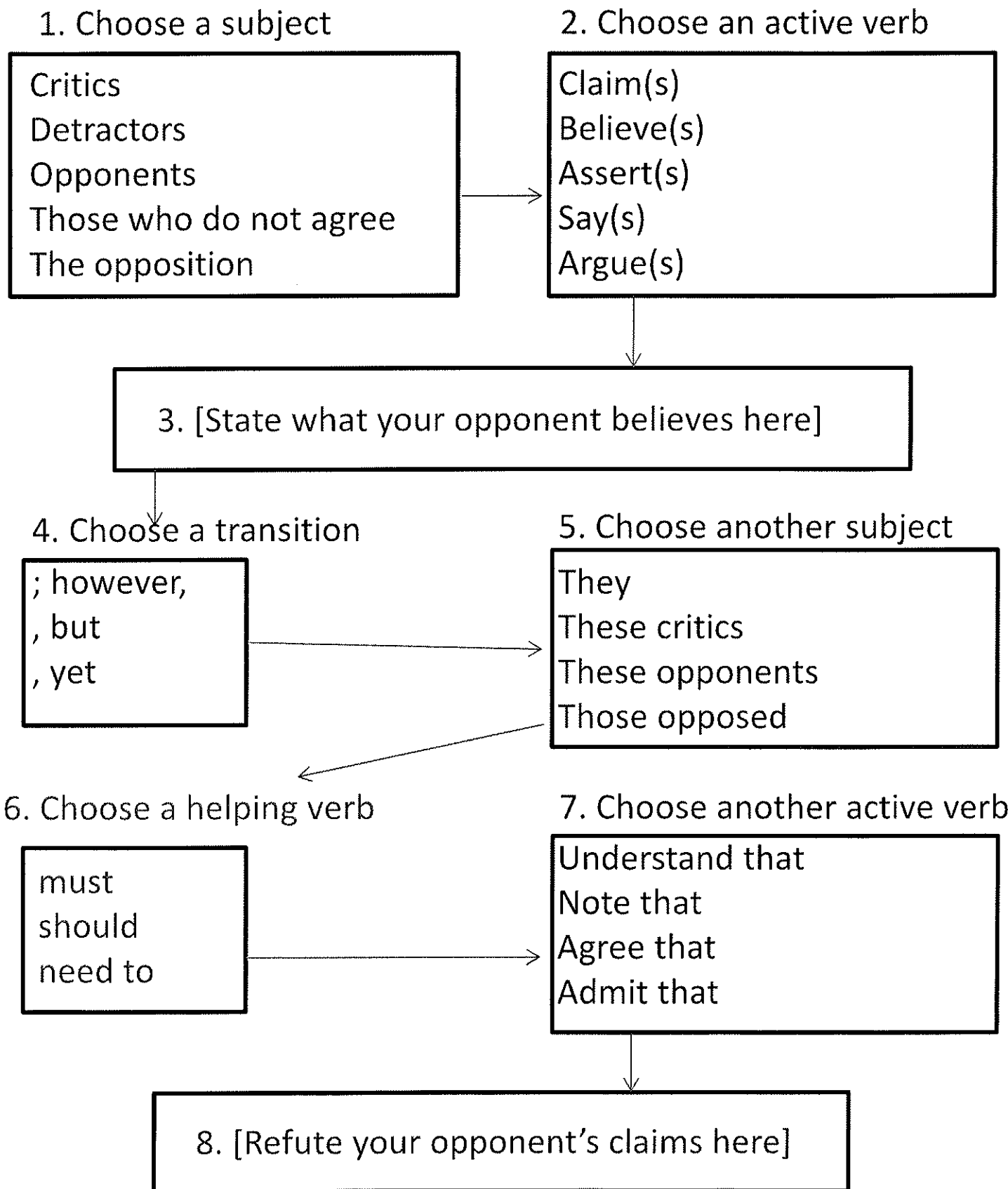
What is your position/argument/claim?

What would your audience bring up if she wanted to prove you wrong? What would someone on the other side of this issue say?

How could you solve the issues presented from the opposing side?



Creating an effective opening to your Opposing Argument paragraph is easy! Use this flowchart to outline your counter-argument, step-by-step.





How To Write An

# ARGUMENT ESSAY

## Introduction

**(1) Hook**

---

**(2) Background Information**

---

**(3) Claim (present your position on the issue)**

---

## Body Paragraph #1

**(1) First argument for your claim**

---

**(2) Supporting evidence**

---

---

**(3) Counterargument**

---

**(4) Disprove counterargument**

---

**(5) Concluding Sentence**

---

### **Body Paragraph #2**

**(1) Second argument for your claim**

---

**(2) Supporting evidence**

---

**(3) Counterargument**

---

**(4) Disprove counterargument**

---

**(5) Concluding Sentence**

---

### **Body Paragraph #3**

**(1) Third argument for your claim**

---

**(2) Supporting evidence**

---

---

**(3) Counterargument**

---

**(4) Disprove counterargument**

---

**(5) Concluding Sentence**

---



## **Conclusion**

**(1) Restate your claim**

---

**(2) Tell the reader why this issue is important  
(significance)**

---

---

**(3) Tell the reader what they should do about it (call to  
action)**

---

---