

## Opposing Side

The opposing side is normally found ONLY in argument essays and argument research papers.

### Why?

1. It's important to acknowledge the valid points of the opposing side's argument.
2. Helps writers be more effective and less narrow-minded.
3. Establishes the ethos (credibility) of the author.
4. Strengthens the essay.

**Be Careful Though!** The opposing side shouldn't sound better than the writer's original argument.

Avoid this by:

1. Countering any arguments on the opposing side.
2. Bringing argument back to the writer's side.
3. Refute the opposing side with facts proving the writer's side.

## Steps to Success

1. Introduce the Opposing Argument
2. Acknowledge parts of the opposition that are valid
3. Counter the Argument
4. Introduce the Conclusion

### 1. Introduce the Opposing Argument

The writer **summarizes the opposition's** viewpoint openly and honestly. Ignoring the opposition is futile in that the audience is aware of the opposing arguments and will doubt the credibility of a presentation that chooses to ignore the opposition rather than deal with it.

*Ways writers can begin:*

But \_\_\_\_\_ is not completely inaccurate.

It is true that...

It is often argued that...

Opposing views claim...

### 2. Acknowledge parts of the opposition that are valid

The writer acknowledges that **some of the opposition's claims** may be valid, but the writer still shows that his **own claims are stronger**. The strength of the writer's claims are more convincing than the opposing viewpoints. A writer might explain the opposition's weakest points, contrasting them with his argument's strongest points.

*Ways writers can begin:*

Admittedly,

Certainly,

Of course,

One cannot deny that...

At the same time...

### 3. Counter the Argument

Introduce the **rebuttal** of the concession argument. The writer **refutes the opposition's claims** showing they are incorrect or inconsequential--not a real problem.

*Ways writers can begin:*

Nevertheless,

However,

On the other hand,

But...

### 4. Introduce the Conclusion

The conclusion should **summarize** why the counter argument is not a sufficient solution.

*Ways writers can begin*

Thus,

Therefore,

As a result,

Sometimes writers might just want to restate his/her position simply.

## Sample Opposing Side

### Safe Traveler Cards

Taken from *College Writers* pg. 733-734

**[Introduce Opposing Arguments]** As attractive as Safe Traveler Cards or national ID cards are, they are not without drawbacks. For one thing, as Easterbrook notes, these cards would expedite security procedures only for travelers who do not mind volunteering such information to obtain a card. Moreover they would not prevent passengers with "clean" backgrounds from bringing weapons or explosives on board, as was the case in the September 11 attacks. Perhaps the biggest drawback is that some people believe that these cards would deprive people of their privacy and that for this reason, their disadvantages outweigh their advantages (168).

However, there are many who disagree with these contentions. **[Acknowledge Valid Parts]** While national ID cards could lessen a person's anonymity and privacy, **[Counter Argument]** this is a small loss that would be offset by a great increase in personal security. To Dershowitz--a self proclaimed civil libertarian--this tradeoff would be well worth it. According to Dershowitz, the national ID card would be only a little more intrusive than a photo ID card or social security card. Best of all, it would reduce or eliminate the need for racial profiling: "Anyone who had the [national ID] card could be allowed to pass through airports or building security more expeditiously, and anyone who opted out could be examined much more closely" (590). Such cards would enable airport security officials to do instant background checks on everyone. **[Begin Concluding]** The personal information in the system would stay in the system and never be made public. The only information on the card would be a person's "name, address, photo, and [finger]print" (Dershowitz 591).