

Making Counter-arguments & Persuasive Language

Sometimes people disagree because they have different ideas or information. In English we can use phrases like, “I disagree with you because _____”, “The way I see it, _____”, “In my opinion _____” or “I see what you’re saying, but _____.” These are all examples of polite ways to disagree with someone.

- Another way to disagree with someone is by making a “counter-argument.” Counter-arguments usually involve stating or *acknowledging the opposite idea or view on a topic, using a conjunction word (however, but, although, though) and then stating your idea, information or view.
- Counter-arguments are meant to be persuasive. That means the person making the counter-argument wants the listener or reader to change their original idea or belief.

**acknowledge - to accept that something is true/to notice that something exists/to recognize something/someone is important*

Examples:

Many people have the opinion that cold weather causes the flu, however, doctors will tell you that spreading bacteria and germs from person to person causes the flu.

Even though many people believe Seattle is the rainiest city in the U.S., New Orleans gets the most rain every year.

I think it is common to believe that only citizens can complete the Census, but the truth is, all people living in the U.S. need to be counted.

A) Think Pair Share: Take a few minutes and read the 3 questions below and think about how you will answer them. Then turn to your partner and discuss your answers. Then the teacher will ask some students to share their answers with the class.

1. Lawyers and politicians make a lot of counter-arguments because they want to persuade other people to believe what they believe. *Have you ever heard or made a counter-argument to persuade someone?*
2. *What are examples of situations in which making a counter-argument could be useful to you?*
3. *In your language and culture, is it rude to make counter-arguments? (think about making counter-arguments to your parents, or spouse, or a government official)*

B) Directions: Match the counter-arguments with the opposite idea/information to make one complete sentence.

____ 1. While some people say they don’t have time to complete the census,	A. the online version of the census has 12 language translations available.
____ 2. Although some English learners feel they don’t speak or read English well enough to complete the census,	B. however, it is illegal for the government to release or share anyone’s information.
____ 3. Some immigrants think they are not included in the census because they aren’t citizens,	C. most people can complete it in less than 60 minutes.

<p>___4. My neighbor believes the census isn't important and a waste of time to <i>fill out</i>,</p>	<p>D. however, it is the law that your information can only be used to produce statistics.</p>
<p>___5. My brother doesn't want to complete the census because he doesn't trust the government and he thinks it will use his information against him,</p>	<p>E. the truth is the census data is used to distribute federal funds that pays for public safety, and emergency preparedness, schools and hospitals, roads and bridges, and factories that create jobs.</p>
<p>___6. Sharing personal information nowadays can be worrisome,</p>	<p>F. the truth is that the census counts every person living in this country regardless of their immigration status.</p>

* fill out = complete a form or survey (I fill out a medical history form every time I see a new doctor.)

D) Directions: Write your own counter-arguments. Look at the pictures and complete the sentences, **or** write your own complete sentences about each topic. Use persuasive language to express your idea/opinion. Try using different counter-arguments, and conjunctions.



1. Electric Cars:

There are some disadvantages to electric cars,

_____.



2. Working from home:

Most people think working from home is great,

_____.



3. School uniforms:

While some parents believe school uniforms are _____

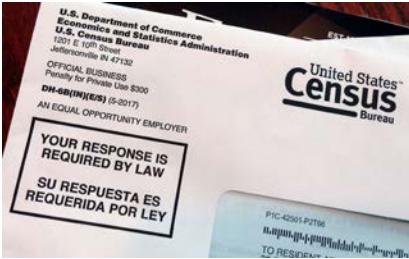
_____.



4. Census 2020:

My husband doesn't feel comfortable sharing our private information with the government _____

_____.



5. Census 2020:

Although some people think the Census is optional, _____

_____.