



Concessions and Counterarguments

Research 2014.15

What is a **concession**?

- A Concession is when you acknowledge or recognize the opposing viewpoint, saying that it has some merit.
- A reader of your essay is more likely to listen to you if you show you can see his/her point of view before you counter that argument.

Why is a **concession** important?

- It allows you to show that you see and appreciate good reasoning on the part of the opposition.
- You recognize how the other side is valid, but then you prove the superiority of your position.
- The opposition might be right, but you are “more” right.

Why is a **concession** important?

- Remember that a concession is not a form of weakness.
- In fact, a concession is a strength as it finds common ground with your opponent and establishes your ethical appeal: you are a reasonable person willing to listen to/acknowledge that there are more sides to an issue than yours.

Example1: Where is the Concession?

- Some people say that standardized testing is good because it provides a way of measuring ALL students using the same standard test. However, what people fail to realize is that not all students can and should be measured the same way.

Example 2: Where is the Concession?

- It is true that students should not have headphones on when their teachers are giving a lesson. Students should not be allowed to block out their teachers. However, when every member of the class is working individually after important information has been given, listening to music can be a helpful learning tool. It would create a more relaxing, calm environment for learning.

Example 3: Where is the Concession?

- It is true that if the government were to tell people which energy-efficient cars to buy, the air would become healthier, but one of the reasons why so many people live in the United States is because of the freedom of choice...

How to begin a **Concession**...

- It is true that...
- Certainly...
- Admittedly...
- Of course...
- Obviously...
- Sure...
- Some people say...

What is a Counterargument?

- Your response to the Concession (the other side).
- This is the ‘punch’ back that your thesis is right and their concession is wrong!

Example1: Where is the Counterargument?

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Example 2: Where is the Counterargument?

- It is true that students should not have headphones on when their teachers are giving a lesson. Students should not be allowed to block out their teachers. However, when every member of the class is working individually after important information has been given, listening to music can be a helpful learning tool. It would create a more relaxing, calm environment for learning.

Example 3: Where is the Counterargument?

- It is true that if the government were to tell people which energy-efficient cars to buy, the air would become healthier, but one of the reasons why so many people live in the United States is because of the freedom of choice...

How to begin a Counterargument

-however....
- ...but...in short...
- ...on the other hand...so...
- ...nevertheless...as a result...
- ...on the contrary...
- ...however...in addition...

Where will my **concession** & **counterargument** go in my research paper?

- At the beginning of the 3rd paragraph (or 2nd body paragraph)
- Everything is listed, in order, in your outline!