



ELA Virtual Learning

8th Grade ELA

April 15, 2020



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Lesson: April 15, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

I can determine how the author responds to conflicting information (i.e. counterclaim) on the same topic.



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Essential Question:

How can I identify and understand how an author responds to conflicting information on the same topic?

Warm Up

Quote:

“The moment we want to believe something, we suddenly see all the arguments **FOR** it, and become blind to the arguments **AGAINST** it.”

-- George Bernard Shaw

On notebook paper, respond to this Bernard Shaw quote.

Hint: What do you think he’s trying to say? What does it mean?

Warm Up

Response to Quote

“The moment we want to believe something, we suddenly see all the arguments **FOR** it, and become blind to the arguments **AGAINST** it.”

-- George Bernard Shaw

Sample answer: Bernard Shaw’s quote means that when we want to choose a side in an argument, we decide to only acknowledge the sides of the argument that agree with our viewpoint but fail to acknowledge the arguments that prove our side wrong.

Warm Up

What do you already know about CLAIMS and COUNTERCLAIMS?

On notebook paper, write down the definition of **CLAIM** and give an example of one.

Reminder: last week we reviewed **CLAIMS**

Underneath your definition and example of **CLAIM**, define **COUNTERCLAIM** and give an example.

Hint: Your example of a **COUNTERCLAIM** should relate to your **CLAIM** example.

Warm Up

What do you already know about CLAIMS and COUNTERCLAIMS?

Your definition of **CLAIM** -

An example of a **CLAIM** -

Your definition of **COUNTERCLAIM** -

An example of **COUNTERCLAIM** -

Learn

What do you already know about CLAIMS and COUNTERCLAIMS?

Definition of **CLAIM** - the author's presentation of fact with or without support or evidence

Example of a **CLAIM** - "The Titanic is unsinkable."

Definition of **COUNTERCLAIM** - see next slide

Example of **COUNTERCLAIM** - see next slide

What do you already know about CLAIMS and COUNTERCLAIMS?

Definition of **COUNTERCLAIM** - when the author acknowledges the other side of the argument, and uses evidence to prove it wrong or incorrect

An example of **COUNTERCLAIM** - Obviously sinkable, the Titanic's demise was caused by many factors: outdated building practices, questionable materials and overconfidence of its captain.

CLAIMS and COUNTERCLAIMS

You will read Jennifer Betts' article ["Why We Should Not Ban Plastic Bags."](#) In this article, Betts addresses many common beliefs about the non-environmental aspects of plastic bags.

Now that you've read the article, let's look at her 1st counter to a plastic bags ban--how a ban on plastic bags would affect landfills.

Hint: you'll find this in the 3rd paragraph (see Issue 1) of her article.



CLAIMS and **COUNTERCLAIMS**

In the 3rd paragraph (see Issue 1) of her article:

“Paper takes up more room in landfills and doesn't exactly disintegrate rapidly. According to North Suburban News, paper bags take up nine times more room than plastic and break down at about the same rate. Switching to biodegradable plastic bags might be something to consider, but a ban on plastic bags won't do much for the landfills. If anything, assuming an increase in paper bag usage, it could make the problem worse.”

How does Betts counter the widely-held belief that banning plastic bags will solve the pollution issue in landfills?

CLAIMS and COUNTERCLAIMS

How does Betts counter the widely-held belief that banning plastic bags will solve the pollution issue in landfills?

“Paper takes up more room in landfills and doesn't exactly disintegrate rapidly. According to North Suburban News, paper bags take up nine times more room than plastic and break down at about the same rate. Switching to biodegradable plastic bags might be something to consider, but a ban on plastic bags won't do much for the landfills. If anything, assuming an increase in paper bag usage, it could make the problem worse.”

CLAIMS and COUNTERCLAIMS

Now, read issue #2 (paragraph 4 and starts with “An interview with chemistry professor David Tyler . . .”)

How does Betts counter the widely-held belief that banning plastic bags in lieu of paper bags will be beneficial?

On your piece of paper, copy Betts’ reasons down.



Sample Answer

In paragraph 4, Betts counters the widely-held belief that banning plastic bags in lieu of paper bags will be beneficial by stating that:

- “plastic bags actually produce less stress on the environment than paper or cotton bags”
- “Assuming the plastic bags are the worst simply because they're plastic and don't break down rapidly seems to make sense, but a wider view reveals that the decision whether to ban the bags isn't so simple”

Independent Practice **CLAIMS** and **COUNTERCLAIMS**

Now, choose 3 additional issues (we have completed issue 1 and 2), and copy down Betts' counters to banning plastic bags.

SAMPLE ANSWER:

Issue 3 - "there's an increase in the types of plastic bags people can purchase to fulfill the same jobs as the free ones" and replacements "poise a bigger threat to the environment"



Independent Practice (sample answers)

Issue 4 - “plastic bags aren't as big of a litter problem as it seems” while “efforts spent trying to ban plastic bags is effort that could be put to better use elsewhere, perhaps on garbage issues that take up larger percentages of the litter and land pollution problem”

Issue 5 - studies have shown that recyclable bags can experience a bacteria buildup that single-use bags don't and “washing the reusable bags after use makes them an even bigger drain on the environment”

Extra Practice

Think about an issue at your school or in your community (city of Independence).

Ex. issue: The city of Independence currently bans pit bulls.

My stance: “The city of Independence needs to change its stance and allow pit bulls within the city limits.”

Think about the quote from today’s warm-up: “The moment we want to believe something, we suddenly see all the arguments **FOR** it, and become blind to the arguments **AGAINST** it.”

What are the 3 strongest arguments for the other side?

Extra Practice

The 3 strongest arguments in favor of a pit bull ban (although I disagree with this side of the argument) are:

- 1) Pit bulls are incredibly strong,
- 2) The pit bull breed was bred for its aggressive qualities, and
- 3) Because of their aggressive qualities, pit bulls have injured and maimed many people, including many young and elderly.

Extra Practice: Choose a topic that you feel strongly about. What are the 3 strongest arguments against your side?