

# Opposing Point of View in Persuasive Essays Name: \_\_\_\_\_

In a persuasive essay, the **OPPOSING POINT OF VIEW** is the other side of the argument (the side that you do not agree with). You can strengthen your argument in a persuasive essay by mentioning the opposing point of view and then providing a good rebuttal that weakens your opponent's argument by proving that their argument is wrong or untrue.



## How can I include the opposing point of view in my paper?

Use the following format or something similar:

**I understand that** [a strong reason that supports the other side of the argument]; **however,** [rebut/refute that reason with a stronger reason (in other words, prove that reason to be wrong or untrue)].

**Example 1:** I understand that there are people who believe dropping sports from Park Middle School is a good idea because it will allow the school to spend budget money in other areas; however, what good are fancy laptop carts if the school has no pride or school spirit?

**Example 2:** I understand that students may not return from lunch if they are allowed to go off-campus during their lunch period; however, those who do not return should lose off-campus privileges. Why should the students who follow the rules be punished? Students need to get a mental break from the school environment. They should be able to step out and enjoy their lunches.

**Example 3:** I understand the argument that students should not have headphones on when their teachers are giving a lesson because 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 because it helps create a more relaxing and calm environment for learning that promotes higher levels of concentration.

### Let's Try One Together...

Imagine you just wrote a letter to Mrs. Rebimbas trying to persuade her to let students chew gum in school.

Your Arguments (why gum <u>should</u> be allowed)	Opposing Point of View (why gum <u>shouldn't</u> be allowed)	Your Rebuttal (why the opposing point of view is wrong or untrue)
It helps many students concentrate in class.	It can distract those not chewing it.	I understand that some may be distracted by gum chewing; however, it helps a majority of students concentrate.
It improves students' test scores.	It can leave a mess if not properly thrown out.	
It helps students stay awake.		