



Defending Claims

Incorporating a ‘naysayer’ into your text helps to identify possible objections to our claims and arguments. Acknowledging and subsequently refuting those objections can help enhance our views, bolster our credibility, and even resolve problems with our own ideas.

Identify and anticipate the criticisms of the naysayer for your paper. Begin by listing some of the central claims you make in your essay and provide "counter-arguments" for these claims. Summarizing any potential objections ultimately leads to answering or responding to those objections — which in turn may persuade your readers to adopt your point of view.

1) Remind yourself: What is my central argument?

2) In order to explore and prove this argument, what are some of the main "points" your paper makes or needs to make? You can use your topic claims and other conclusions you argue as guides here, but you should also think beyond what you have written currently as those ideas may need to change. In other words, if you know a topic sentence isn't exactly what you want to explore in that paragraph, write below the idea you want to convey instead.

A.

B.

C.

3) Now rewrite the above claims from an opposing viewpoint. How would the “naysayer” respond to these ideas?

A.

B.

C.

4) Finally, answer these objections. Be sure that you do not dismiss the objections as irrelevant or attempt to oversimplify them-- this may result in you alienating your readers.

A.

B.

C.