

HOW TO WRITE A COUNTERCLAIM PARAGRAPH:

1. Acknowledge what the opposing side says. This should be your topic sentence.
2. Provide evidence from the opposing side. What would they cite to support their claim?
3. Refute (argue against) their point of view and evidence by claiming it is illogical, incomplete, uninformed, misinformed, less important than your point. Explain why.

Some would argue that the rising cost of college is a result of less funding for public education. For example, Sandy Baum of the Urban Institute explains, “So it’s not that colleges are spending more money to educate students, it’s that they have to get that money from someplace to replace their lost state funding — and that’s from tuition and fees from students and families” (Campos). While this statement is somewhat true, it is also misleading. Total appropriation per student is down at the state level from its peak in 1990, but enrollment is up over 50%, causing funding to be spread over a much larger base of students paying tuition (Campos). Also, government appropriations for public education are ten times more than they were in the 60’s, so it depends which date you are measuring from (Campos). The claim that colleges are compensating for less funding unfortunately flies in the face of the facts and is merely a nice talking point used by administrators with seven figure salaries.