

CLAIM / COUNTERCLAIM

# WHAT IS A CLAIM?

- A claim is your argument or reason proving your thesis.
- A claim is a statement of something as a fact.
- It is supported with **EVIDENCE** (concrete details) and **EXPLANATIONS** (commentary).

# WHAT IS A COUNTERCLAIM?

- Brainstorm at your tables...
  - What is a counterclaim?
  - Why do we need counterclaims?

# WHAT IS A COUNTERCLAIM?

- A counterclaim is the opposite of your claim.
- Think of a debate...the opposing side is the counterclaim.

# WHY DO WE NEED COUNTERCLAIMS?

- Your audience (reader) might have an opinion on the subject that is different than yours.
- It acknowledges other points of view.
- It shows that you are knowledgeable about your topic.
- It gives you a chance to explain why your position is stronger than the others.

# LET'S TRY A FEW...

- Claim:
  - Cell phones are great for students in middle school.
- Work with your table to make a counterclaim (make a claim from the opposing viewpoint).

# LET'S TRY A FEW...

- Claim:
  - Students should have access to social media during the school day.
- Work with your table to make a counterclaim (make a claim from the opposing viewpoint).

# LET'S TRY A FEW...

- Claim:
  - All students must play a sport before they graduate high school.
- Work with your table to make a counterclaim (make a claim from the opposing viewpoint).



# WHAT IS A REBUTTAL?

- The rebuttal is the evidence you use to disprove the counterclaim.

# EXAMPLE - HUNTING SEASON SHOULD BE LONGER

- Reason #1 - Animal population is too high.
- Reason #2 - Some people hunt for food and need more time to get more food.
- Counterclaim - Many hunters only hunt for trophy and waste the meat.
  - Rebuttal - Research shows that 85% of hunters either keep the meat to eat or give it to someone else for food.

These are made up facts for this presentation only.

# SENTENCE STEMS TO USE TO INTRODUCE THE COUNTERCLAIM

- A common argument against this position is...
- Some would argue...
- Although it is true that...
- Despite the opposition's belief that...
- In spite of the opposition's position that...
- It is often thought...
- It may be true that...
- Opponents would argue...
- Others would argue...
- Some might argue...

# SENTENCE STEMS TO USE TO DISPROVE THE COUNTERCLAIM

- These are used for your rebuttal!
- However, when you look at the evidence it becomes clear that...
- The evidence clearly indicates that...
- The evidence shows that...
- The evidence overwhelmingly supports...
- However...
- However, the evidence points to...
- Nevertheless...
- However, when one evaluates the evidence it becomes clear that...

# PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

- Claim - Cell phones are great for students in middle school.

Using the sentence stems, let's write a counterclaim and a rebuttal.

- **Although it is true that** cell phones are a distraction for students in middle school, **the evidence clearly shows that** cell phones help students while they are in school.
  - After this you will add your evidence to show HOW cell phones help students.