

Analyze an Argument: Reader's Choice

Read the titles of two arguments listed below; decide which topic interests you more. Before reading your chosen text, consider your own opinions about the topic and try to predict the position and support the author might discuss.

Option 1: "Adopt, Don't Shop"

Option 2: "Should School Uniforms Be Required?"

Annotate

Annotating the text will help you engage with the ideas presented and track how the author develops the argument. Underline, highlight, or mark the following:

- **Claim:** The author's position/opinion about the topic
- **Support:** Reasons and evidence used to support the claim
- **Opposing Claims/Counterclaims:** Effective arguments include opposing claims, or potential objections to the claim. Writers can make their arguments even stronger by including **counterclaims** that explain why those opposing claims are not valid.

(Hint: Reference the anchor chart on page 3 to see phrases that signal the introduction of an opposing claim.)

Analyze

Complete the graphic organizer on the next page, referencing the annotations you made throughout the text.

Consider additional reasons or opposing claims you could make in favor of or in opposition to the author's viewpoint. Add them to the graphic organizer.

Reflect

Choose one of the following activities to complete:

Option 1: Virtually poll friends or family to see what they think about the topic. Summarize your findings in a paragraph or short video.

Option 2: Consider your own opinions about the topic. Create a blog or social media post describing your position. Explain how it is similar to or different from the claim in the text you read.

Graphic Organizer

Analyze an Argument

The author argues. . .

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The author supports the position by describing. . .

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The author acknowledges. . .

. . .but refutes that opposing view by. . .

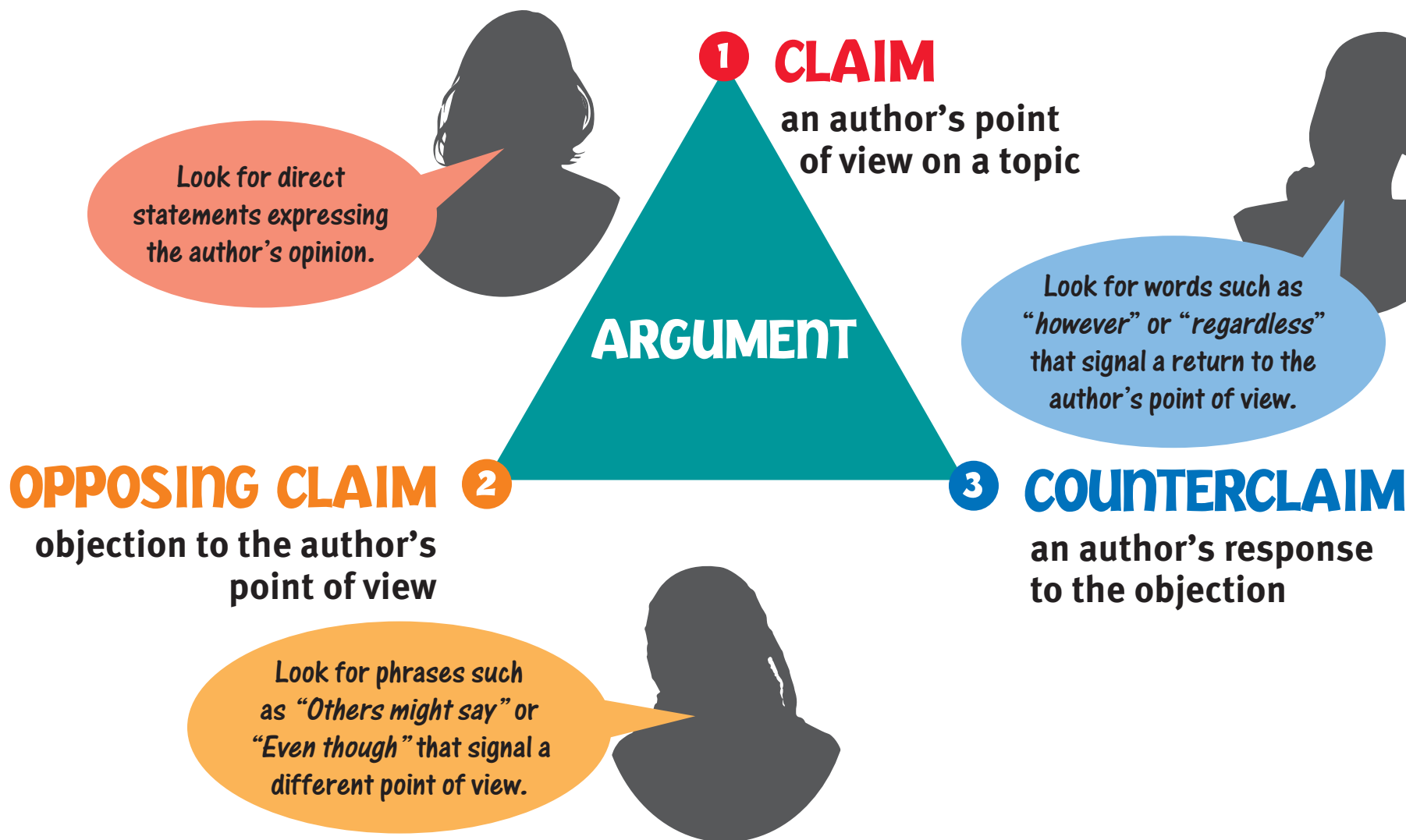
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I believe . . . because . . .

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Identify Opposing Claims and Counterclaims

A strong argument includes...





Adopt, Don't Shop

Argument by Viviane Reyes

Deciding to add a pet to your family is no small choice. It's a commitment to care for another living being. Let's say your family is ready to make that commitment— that's the first step. What is the second step? Deciding where you'll get your new pet. Should you go to a pet store, a breeder, or your local shelter? Pet stores and breeders with cute, energetic puppies and kittens are an attractive option. However, they may not be the best option for you or your future animal.

For starters, think about the astronomical number of adoptable dogs and cats that are euthanized every year. Each year, about 3.3 million dogs and 3.2 million cats enter animal shelters in the United States. Of those, approximately 2.7 million dogs and cats are euthanized because shelters run out of space or resources. Adopting a pet from a shelter frees up space for an animal in need. This saves the life of an animal in danger of being put to sleep.

Another reason to adopt an animal is cost. A purebred dog can cost upwards of \$500 to \$3,000. The average cost of a cat from a breeder is \$300 to \$1,200. These hefty pricetags do not include any veterinarian visits or medical care such as checkups and vaccinations. In comparison, the average cost to adopt an animal from a shelter is \$50 to \$200. Many shelters may charge even less when they

are reaching capacity. And preventative care and vaccinations are typically included in the cost of adopting, further cutting the price of a new pet.

Some people may say they prefer puppies or kittens, because “you can’t teach an old dog new tricks.” Buying from a pet store or breeder does ensure that you get a *new* pet of a certain breed. However, shelters carry animals of all ages and breeds. Some shelters focus on specific breeds, making it easier to find a breed of your choosing. With that in mind, mixed-breed and older animals need your love, too! Older animals are sometimes already trained and often less energetic, which could be a better fit for some families. You may just find the perfect animal for you and your family when you expand your preferences and open your heart.

Ultimately, as with any big decision, adding a furry friend to your family should be carefully considered. Keep shelter animals in your thoughts when deciding on your next pet. You would be saving a life, saving money, and giving a forgotten animal a chance at having a family. In the end, you may not know who rescued who!

A photograph of several students in school uniforms walking down a hallway. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. The students are wearing white shirts, dark ties, and dark pants or skirts. They are smiling and looking in various directions.

Should School Uniforms Be Required?

Argument by Aubrey Blum

Some schools throughout the country require kids to wear specific uniforms. These uniforms usually consist of polo shirts, khaki pants, plaid skirts, blazers, and ties. By controlling what kids wear, school administrators think they can minimize bullying. Kids won't want to pick on other kids' outfits if they are all wearing the same thing! Schools can also ensure that outfits are appropriate by requiring students to wear uniforms.

Is it worth it, though?

Uniforms can be expensive. They are typically not provided by the school and have to be purchased by families, and not all families can afford multiple outfits to get their kids through the week.

Uniforms also don't let kids express their individuality. Often, kids like being able to dress in certain apparel that complements their personality. They wear clothes that show off their favorite colors, teams, bands, activities, and styles. When schools require uniforms, they take away kids' ability to make their own choices. Some argue that without the distraction of having to make those choices, kids are likely to do better in school because they can focus on academics. Is that really a decision that should be made for them, though?

Students have reported feeling “policed” the minute they walk into school. Teacher and administrator eyes are immediately judging them: *Is their shirt tucked in? Are they wearing a brown or black belt? Are their shoes acceptable?* This micromanaging makes students feel vulnerable and defensive at times. No school professionals should want their students to feel that way.

Students should be allowed to wear what they want, as long as it’s appropriate. Schools can create guidelines to ensure students are dressing respectfully without taking away their freedom of choice.