

SMART JUNIORS 1

**Choosing Your Ride:
Private vs. Public Transport**

**Lesson 34
Critical Thinking**



Making Counter-Arguments

A **counter-argument** is an opposing viewpoint or argument that challenges or opposes a given statement.

It is important for us to focus on one thing at a time.

I don't agree with that.
First of all...

She is making counter-arguments!



CRITICAL THINKING

To make effective counter-arguments:

1. First, show that you **understand the opposing viewpoint**.
2. Then, **explain the weaknesses of the opposing viewpoint**.

I understand
but I don't agree

I **know that** some people think it is important for us to focus on one thing at a time.

But I have a **different idea** about it.

Counter-argument

The weaknesses of the viewpoint:

Weakness 1

Weakness 2

Weakness 3



CRITICAL THINKING

Use a Table

A **counter-argument table** can help us identify the opposing viewpoint and organize the counter-arguments against it.

	Opposing Viewpoint	Counter-argument
Emma		
Jack		

In the essay, how did Emma and Jack make their counter-arguments?



LET'S ANALYZE

Emma stated a viewpoint she doesn't agree with and then made counter-arguments.

Emma: Others believe that using private transport is more convenient and should be encouraged; however, I don't think that is true. First, having a car can be expensive because you need to pay for fuel, maintenance, insurance, and parking. It can be a problem for people who don't have a lot of money. Second, too many cars on the road cause traffic, which can make us late and delay our plans. Lastly, driving can be stressful, especially in unfamiliar places. It can make us tired and worried.



Opposing Viewpoint

Using private transport is more convenient and should be encouraged.

Counter-argument



I don't think that's true. First, _____
Second, _____
Lastly, _____

Emma

LET'S ANALYZE

Jack stated a viewpoint he doesn't agree with and then made his counter-arguments.

Jack: Public transport is usually considered to be more practical and environment-friendly, I'll say that's not the whole story. Firstly, public transportation might not always be available in all areas, especially outside of cities. Moreover, some buses and trains still use fuels that are not good for the environment. Thirdly, building and taking care of public transportation systems also use a lot of resources.



Opposing Viewpoint

Counter-argument



Jack


That's not the whole story.

Firstly, -----

Moreover, -----

Thirdly, -----


Check their final arguments and counter-arguments.

	Opposing Viewpoint	Counter-argument 
Emma	Using private transport is more convenient and should be encouraged.	<p>I don't think that's true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First, private transport is expensive; it can be a problem for people who do not have much money.2. Second, too many private cars cause heavy traffic.3. Lastly, driving can be stressful, especially in unfamiliar places.
Jack	Public transport is more practical and environment-friendly and should be encouraged.	<p>That's not the whole story.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Firstly, public transport is not always available everywhere2. Moreover, some public transport like buses and trains still use fuels that are harmful to the environment.3. Thirdly, building and taking care of public transport systems use a lot of resources.

WRITING TASK



The table provides us with clear writing points for a counter-argument.
Try completing the first part using the highlighted points.

	Opposing Viewpoint	Counter-argument 
Emma	Using private transport is more convenient and should be encouraged.	<p>I don't think that's true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First, private transport is expensive; it can be a problem for people who do not have much money.2. Second, too many private cars cause heavy traffic.3. Lastly, driving can be stressful, especially in unfamiliar places.

Some people believe that _____,


but I _____. First of all, _____

If we encourage it, then _____ for _____.

WRITING TASK



Complete the second part based on the highlighted point.

	Opposing Viewpoint	Counter-argument 
Emma	Using private transport is more convenient and should be encouraged.	<p>I don't think that's true.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. First, private transport is expensive; it can be a problem for people who do not have much money.2. Second, too many private cars cause heavy traffic.3. Lastly, driving can be stressful, especially in unfamiliar places.

Second, private transport will cause _____

If everyone uses _____,

it can make _____



Complete the third part based on the highlighted point.

Opposing Viewpoint

Counter-argument



Emma

Using private transport is more convenient and should be encouraged.

I don't think that's true.


1. First, private transport is expensive; it can be a problem for people who do not have much money.
2. Second, too many private cars cause heavy traffic.
3. Lastly, driving can be stressful, especially in unfamiliar places.

Lastly, I want to point out that _____

especially in a place _____. It will make us_____



We use a counter-argument table to help us present opposing viewpoints. In the student's book on page 71, write your opposing viewpoint based on the given argument. Provide counter-arguments in the table and use them to write a short paragraph.

	Opposing Viewpoint	Counter-arguments
 Dory	Living in the city offers a dynamic and exciting lifestyle, with access to numerous opportunities and amenities.	1. 2.
You		3.



WHAT'S NEXT...

In the next lesson, we're going to learn about
Prepositions of Place and Movement.

See you next class!