

The Counterclaim Corner

Analyze how a speaker acknowledges concerns and responds to them.

12.C.2.A.iv "Report orally on a topic or text or present an opinion. This includes: Anticipating and addressing alternative or opposing perspectives and counterclaims and rebuttals, as appropriate."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the speaker's main claim and final request. Circle the two sentences that state opposing views, then label each set of rebuttal sentences 1 or 2 to match the opposing view it answers.

A Safer Downtown Avenue

- ① Members of the city council, our downtown avenue should receive a protected bike lane during its planned repaving. A protected lane uses a curb, posts, or another physical separator to keep bicycle traffic apart from moving cars. The avenue now links a high school, apartments, a transit station, and small businesses. Giving riders a clearly separated route would make short trips less intimidating and could reduce conflicts at the busiest intersections. This is not a request to ban cars. It is a request to use one curbside lane more safely and predictably.
- ② Some residents may argue that removing a travel lane will worsen congestion and delay deliveries. That concern deserves a direct response. The proposal keeps the remaining vehicle lanes and places loading zones on nearby side streets. Clear signs and scheduled delivery times can help drivers find those zones instead of stopping in the bike lane. A protected lane also makes street space easier to read: cyclists have one defined route, while drivers know where loading belongs. The city should study traffic after installation and adjust the plan if delays become severe.
- ③ Others might say bike lanes serve only a small group of confident cyclists. Yet a route that feels protected can matter most to people who do not ride now, including teenagers, older adults, and workers traveling a few blocks. The proposal also includes marked crossings and shorter pedestrian crossing distances at key intersections. These features improve the street for people walking and using wheelchairs, not only for cyclists. Council members, approve the lane with a public review after one year. That review can compare traffic delays, crashes, and use of the route before the city makes the design permanent.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What is the speaker's central proposal, and what does the speaker say the proposal is not?

2 What concern about deliveries does the speaker anticipate? Give two parts of the response to that concern.

3 What opposing view appears in paragraph 3? How does the speaker rebut it?

4 What one-year review does the speaker propose, and why does it strengthen the argument?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a six-sentence oral statement supporting a school or community policy. Include a clear claim, two reasons, one opposing view, a rebuttal, and a final action request.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the speaker's main claim and final request. Circle the two sentences that state opposing views, then label each set of rebuttal sentences 1 or 2 to match the opposing view it answers. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is the speaker's central proposal, and what does the speaker say the proposal is not?	The speaker proposes a protected bike lane during repaving. The speaker says it is not a request to ban cars.
2	What concern about deliveries does the speaker anticipate? Give two parts of the response to that concern.	The concern is that removing a travel lane will delay deliveries. The response includes nearby side-street loading zones, clear signs, and scheduled delivery times.
3	What opposing view appears in paragraph 3? How does the speaker rebut it?	The opposing view is that bike lanes serve only confident cyclists. The speaker argues that protected routes can help new riders, teenagers, older adults, and workers, while crossings also help pedestrians and wheelchair users.
4	What one-year review does the speaker propose, and why does it strengthen the argument?	The speaker proposes comparing traffic delays, crashes, and route use after one year. The review shows that the city will examine results and can decide whether to make the design permanent.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our school should open the library thirty minutes before first period. Students who arrive early could read, finish assignments, or prepare for tests in a supervised space. An early opening would also give students without quiet study space at home another place to work. Some people may argue that the extra staffing time would cost too much. However, the school could begin with two mornings each week and use the result to decide whether the benefit justifies the cost. School leaders should try this limited schedule next semester and review student use after six weeks.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the claim, opposing views, and rebuttals when they match the passage. For Part 3, accept varied policies if the response has exactly six sentences and includes every required argumentative element.