

## Handout 2

### Counterarguments and refutations

#### *Exercise 1*

*State the counterargument using the phrase in brackets.*

*Then write evidence that someone might use to support the counterargument.<sup>1</sup>*

**Example:**

**Social media is good for business. (Some people claim that)**

*Some people claim that social media harms businesses. For example, when someone famous shares a negative review about a company on Twitter, it can make their followers decide to stop buying their products.*

1. Coed classes prepare children for the real world. (Some critics say that...)
2. Online friends are not "real" friends. (Some opponents state that...)
3. Schools have a responsibility to stop cyberbullying. (Critics may argue that..)
4. Competition is healthy in the workplace. (Some people claim that...)

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from: Bauer, J., Boyle M.S., Stapleton, S. (2016). Final Draft 4. Student's book. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

## Exercise 2

*Read each counterargument.*

*Then write a refutation.*

**Example:**

### **Counterargument**

Some people claim that social media harms businesses. For example, when someone famous shares a negative review about a company on Twitter, it can make their followers decide to stop buying their products.

### **Refutation**

*While this may be true to the point, the fact is that negative press can help a company, too. When companies get very public negative reviews, such reviews can give the companies a rare but useful opportunity to apologize to the world and show that the companies truly care about their customers. This practice may convince people that such a company has high values and deserves their business even more.*

1. Some say that teenagers should never engage in conversations or text without their parents' supervision. In their opinion, teenagers cannot be trusted to use their cell phones responsibly.
2. Supporters of online classes argue that online study prepare students better for the twenty-first century than traditional classes do. These supporters often cite the fact that more and more employers expect their employees to collaborate on projects via email and online platforms.
3. Critiques argue that companies should not ask to view people's Facebook pages when these companies are hiring new employees. These critiques claim that such a practice is unfair to job applicants, and it violates their personal privacy.

## Exercise 2

*Complete each sentence with the correct phrase from the brackets.*

1. Online sharing allows users to communicate at a very low cost with anyone anywhere anytime. .... (for this reason/because of) many people use the Internet to keep in touch with family and friends.
2. People who live far from a college can now get an education ..... (as a result/due to) the development of online courses.
3. .... (Because of/That is why) online predators, people need to be careful about who they meet online.
4. The Internet makes it possible to reach thousands in an instant. .... (For this reason/Due to) people can get information on emergency or police news immediately.
5. .... (As a result, / As a result of) computers, modern children may have more flexible brains than their parents.

## Exercise 2

*Add a cause or effect to complete each sentence below.*

1. Because an email address is valuable personal information,  
.....
2. I don't like to receive texts during class. For this reason,  
.....
3. My generation knows a lot more about social media than our parents. As a result,  
.....
4. Sharing news and photos with family and friends is really important to me. That is why  
.....
5. Due to ..... , people enjoy shopping online.