Counterclaim
The counterclaim paragraph is developed in much the same way that an argument paragraph is developed. The difference is that the counterclaim is your opponents’ (the other side’s) argument that explains why you are wrong. You must also refute your opponents’ counterclaim, or prove that your opponents’ objection (counterclaim) is wrong. To do this, you must answer the objection in a fair and logical manner.

This paragraph is structured as follows:

1) Topic sentence. It states the other side’s reason for why you are wrong. Nouns used in this sentence are critics and opponents. Verbs used in this sentence are argue, claim, and contend

Pattern One
Transition Word + some critics / opponents + argue / claim + that + (argument against your claim)
Nevertheless, some critics argue that . . .

Pattern Two
Transition Word + it is argued that + (argument against your thesis)
Nevertheless, it is argued that . . .

2) Evidence which supports the counterclaim: Evidence which shows the validity of the counterclaim

3) Explanation of counterclaim: Summarizes the other side’s objection and acknowledges the validity of the objection.

   Pattern:
   It may be true that + (paraphrase of objection)

4) Refutation: states the reason why the counterclaim is wrong using the evidence against the counterclaim.

   Transition Word + (reason why the objection is wrong)