



# Guide Sheet for Writing the Arguments against

Name

Contentious statement

Your role is to search for as many arguments as you can find that show the statement to be false. Try to find different sources that will attack it. The best sources will have some evidence to help their argument. Evidence can be in the form of case studies or statistics. Try to get a combination of both.

It is very important to realise that you, personally, do not necessarily have to believe the statement false. Even if you agree with it, your role is to find the evidence against and be convincing about it.

A case study is a story about an individual case that shows this statement is false in this case. It might be personal, in that the person writing may be talking about their own experience, or it might be about another person or group of people. Case studies can be very powerful in appealing to emotion.

Statistical evidence will take a bigger picture and give numbers. This may compare different groups of people, or the same group at different times. This kind of evidence can be very powerful in appealing to reason.

For each source that you have chosen you should do the following things:

1. Summarise the argument they make in your own words.
2. Quote any evidence they give, whether it is statistical or case studies.
3. Make sure that you credit the source of the information by giving a book reference or a web address. This can be done by using footnotes in your article.

At the end, sum up the strongest parts of the argument against the statement. Try to make your argument flow together, so it is easy to read. You are aiming to write a piece that is strongly against your statement, and is convincing to the reader that the statement is false. This will be a combination of your own ideas and the evidence you have found.