

Addressing the Opposition

CP English 12

What is the opposition?

Your opposition is the voices and perspectives that counter your opinion.

For example, if someone argued that Angelica is a bold, independent woman, the opposition might point out that she conforms to the expectations of her society and her father. For example, rather than choose love and her intellectual match in Hamilton, she chooses to pursue wealth and influence through marriage.

The articles share the opinions and positions of their authors, so they too can have opponents to their ideas.

Why should a writer address the opposition?

Writers choose to address their opposition because it helps to reinforce and develop their own ideas and credibility. **By addressing the opposition you achieve the following goals:**

- illustrate a well-rounded understanding of the topic (you know all the key points and arguments, not just the ones that support your stance)
- demonstrate a lack of bias (you have considered all angles, not just the one that first occurred to you or that you prefer)
- enhance the level of trust that the reader has for both you and your opinion
- give yourself the opportunity to refute any arguments the opposition may have
- strengthen your argument by diminishing your opposition's argument

Steps for addressing the opposition

1. Acknowledge the validity of the opposition.
 2. Counter the opposition using facts, logical reasoning, etc.
 3. Sum up to show the superiority of the writer's position. This doesn't mean the writer is "right" and the opposition is "wrong."
- It is not the writer's goal to ridicule or demean the opposition. The opposition is a part of the audience, too, and the part that needs the most persuasion.
 - A writer should use respectful wording that doesn't show bias and doesn't attack the opposition.