**Counterclaims**

1. Identify common/typical counterclaim (the argument most will make against you).
2. Explain it.
3. Respond to it with one of the following approaches:
   * Point out flaw: *“\_\_\_\_\_ isn’t actually true.”*
   * Identify what opposition misses: *“What they don’t consider is\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*
   * Weight the significance:   *“\_\_\_\_\_\_is far more important than\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.”*
4. Use a new quote from a credible source that supports YOU.
5. Connect the quote to your response.

**Point out flaw:**

Some people might argue that we should keep a few orcas in captivity to help scientists better understand orcas. Sea World argues that their orcas help university scientists learn about orca behavior and anatomy. However they neglect to recognize that orcas behave very differently in the tanks than they do in the wild. For example, “All captive adult male orcas have collapsed dorsal fins, likely because they have no space in which to swim freely and are fed an unnatural diet” (*8 Reasons Orcas Don’t Belong at Sea World*). Because the tanks are so much smaller than their natural habitats, they behave differently. How useful is it then to study this behavior? We will learn very little about orcas in aquariums and shouldn’t be keeping them there to study.

**What they missed:**

Some people might argue that we need to colonize Mars as an investment for future generations of humans. They argue that we need Mars to mine its resources and as a possible site for human civilization in case we make Earth uninhabitable. Space.com reports that it would cost approximately $4 billion to get a single person to Mars, and that money doesn’t include the cost of maintaining the human colony. What these proponents should consider is spending that money on protecting our environment and making our lives on Earth sustainable for future generations.

**Weigh the significance:**

Some people might argue that we need to continue to eat red meat because of the nutrients in it and because it’s hard for people to change their diets. While these nutrients can also be obtained from eating plants, what is more important are the other impacts of eating meat. Linda Melone writes in *10 Reasons to Stop Eating Red Meat*, “Meat impacts the environment more than any other food we eat, mainly because livestock require much more land, food, water and energy than plants to raise and transport.” When people eat less meat, we can produce more grains and vegetables with those resources and feed more people. Also, we reduce the inhumane treatment of animals. These huge benefits dramatically outweigh any benefit of eating red meat.