

I see what you're saying, but...
Part I: Main Claim*

Author: I am arguing that _____ . . .
[main claim]
because _____ .
[reason]

Reader: I see what you're saying, but have you considered
_____ ?
[alternate claim/reason]

Author: That's a good point.

- (1) I've considered that [alternate claim], but it is not valid because
_____.
OR...
- (2) I've considered that [alternate claim], but while it is valid, my
claim is still valid because _____.

Reader: EITHER: I'm convinced!

OR...

I see what you're saying, but your claim is still not valid because

_____.
[counterclaim]

Author:

- (1) [Acknowledge and respond].
OR...
- (2) I see your point. I may need to modify my original stand.

*This exercise builds on the concepts of acknowledgement and response as presented by Joseph M. Williams and Gregory G. Colomb in *The Craft of Argument* (New York: Longman, 2003).

I see what you're saying, but...

Part II: Subclaims and Evidence

Author: My claim that _____ is valid because _____.
[main claim] [reason (subclaim)]

Reader: How do you know that?

Author: Well, here's my evidence: _____.

Reader: I see what you're saying, but your evidence is [pick one*]:

- Not sufficient, because _____.
- Not accurate, because _____.
- Not precise, because _____.
- Not current, because _____.
- Not representative, because _____.
- Not authoritative, because _____.

Author: That's a good point. I acknowledge that point, and here's how I'd respond:

(1) My evidence is still valid because _____.

OR....

(2) Although my evidence may not be _____,
[accurate, precise, etc.]

it is still valid because _____.

Reader: [etc.]

Author: [etc.]

*From Williams and Colomb, *Craft of Argument*, 151–152.