

# Ways Writers Use Sources to Develop Arguments Practiced in this Mini-Unit

## Illustrating:

When illustrating, writers use specific examples from a text to support a claim or reason. The writer re-presents the text in the form of a direct borrowing (a quotation) or a paraphrase in a way that shows how this quote or paraphrase illustrates or supports the point the writer wants to argue.

Example: (for Claim “fast food is harmful”)

<p>Health is a debatable topic, but it is known that fast food is quite unhealthy. As the article, “Healthy Fast Food: Tips for Making Healthier Fast Food Choices”, states, “A single meal of a Double Whopper with cheese, a medium order of fries, and an apple pie from Burger King contains more saturated fat than the American heart Association recommends we consume in two days.” These numbers are impressive, mainly when it is considered that many high school students eat fast food five days a week because of convenience. This convenience potentially increases the obesity rate that we have reached today. The amount of saturated fat in these meals is absurd when it is considered that two days worth of food are packed in one meal.</p>	<p>Author introduces and presents textual evidence</p> <p>Author comments on the textual evidence to connect this evidence to the claim.</p>
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## Authorizing:

When authorizing, writers refer to an “expert” to support a claim. Typically, as writers present information from an expert as supporting evidence (“illustrating”—see above), they will set this information up by clarifying the author and information about the author’s credibility. Also, the source may be authorized by presenting contextual information such as where the information came from or when it was published.

Example: (for Claim “I support banning junk food marketing in schools”)

<p>Margo Wootan who is the nutrition policy director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, one of the country’s most well-respected consumer advocates on nutrition, states: “Given the high rates of childhood obesity and children’s poor diets, it doesn’t make sense to advertise and market unhealthy food to children at all much less in schools.” To actively promote junk food in school would only make a big problem even worse. A ban on the promotion of junk food in schools would help reduce this problem and lead students to eat a better diet.</p>	<p>Author introduces and authorizes the source before the quote</p> <p>Textual evidence in support of the claim</p> <p>Commentary after the quote connecting the evidence to the claim.</p>
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## Countering:

Countering means “pushing back” against the text in some way (e.g., disagree with it, challenge something it says, or interpret it differently). Countering means not simply negating, but suggesting a different way of thinking. Harris states, “Its defining phrases are *On the other hand* ... and *Yes, but...* . . . In countering you bring a different set of interests to bear upon a subject, look to notice what others have not. Your aim is not to refute what has been said before, to bring the discussion to an end, but to respond to prior views in ways that move the conversation in new directions” (56).

Countering typically involves two moves. First, writers must “come to terms” with the opposing view by fairly summarizing it. When representing the opposing argument, writers may even concede the validity of parts of this opposing argument. Then, writers work to counter this viewpoint and forward their countering argument.

Example: (for Claim “fast food is harmful”)

<p>An argument people make in favor of fast food is the thought that eating in fast food restaurants is cheaper and more convenient than traditional cooking at home. While I do agree on the convenience aspect because as the name states, fast food does allow for shorter waiting times. The savings on the other hand, those are debatable because as the documentary mentioned above, <i>Super Size Me</i>, demonstrates, fast food becomes addictive. This addiction could lead to more money being wasted in the long run because of the constant excess eating brought with addictive food. Sadly cost does seem to drive many people away from a healthy choice which does not help the weight issue.</p>	<p>Author summarizes opposing view</p> <p>Author counters the opposing view</p>
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