

Evolve 6

Session 5

acknowledge arguments and propose counterarguments

Proposing counterarguments means presenting opposing viewpoints or objections to someone's opinion.

purpose: To engage in thoughtful dialogue and strengthen arguments.

Alex: “Hey Taylor, I think students should definitely have homework. It helps reinforce what they learn in class and prepares them for exams.”

Taylor: “Hmm, interesting. But I have a few objections. First, homework can be stressful. Some students already have a lot on their plates with extra activities and family responsibilities.”

Alex: “True, but isn’t a little stress part of the learning process? Plus, homework teaches time management.”

Taylor: “Fair point. But my second counterargument is that not all homework is meaningful. Sometimes it’s just busywork—repetitive tasks that don’t add much value.”

Alex: “I get that. Teachers should definitely focus on quality assignments. But even simple tasks can reinforce concepts.”

Taylor: “Lastly, Alex, consider this: Homework can widen the achievement gap. Students with more resources get help at home, while others struggle alone.”

Alex: “Hmm, you’re right. Maybe schools should provide additional support for those who need it.”

initial argument (pro-homework), counterargument (against homework).

Contrastive stress

Contrastive stress is like putting a spotlight on a specific word or part of a sentence. It's when we say a word louder or with more emphasis than usual to make it stand out and sound more clear. Or when we want to emphasize in the difference or the contrast that is going on between two things or ideas.

Imagine you're telling a friend, "I want the **blue** shirt, not the **red** one." By stressing "blue" and "red," you're saying, "Hey, pay attention to these colors—they matter!"

So, contrastive stress helps us highlight important stuff and make our point crystal clear. It's like bolding words in spoken language!

“She likes coffee, but he loves tea.”

“I want the big slice of cake, not the small one.”

“He’s coming to the party, not leaving.”

“She’s reading a novel, not a magazine.”

“The red car is mine; the blue one is yours.”

“He’s working hard, but she’s hardly working.”

“I’ll take the early flight, not the late one.”

“His older brother is a doctor; his younger brother is an artist.”

“She’s happy with her job, but he’s unhappy.”

“The first book in the series was great; the second one disappointed me.”

Homework

1. Play a short audio at the class (by your own choice) and give a counterargument about the idea of the audio. (freely speak about it.)

You play the audio, explain the argument, then you counter it by using the phrases in page 7 activity 3 A.

You can pre record it too if you want.