



Naysayers in Persuasive Writing

Honors English II
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What is a Naysayer?



- ✱ A naysayer is a two part-argument in a piece of persuasive writing in which the writer anticipates an objection and then responds to it.
- ✱ It is a recognition that the other side may object to your claim and an effort to rebut or qualify their claim.

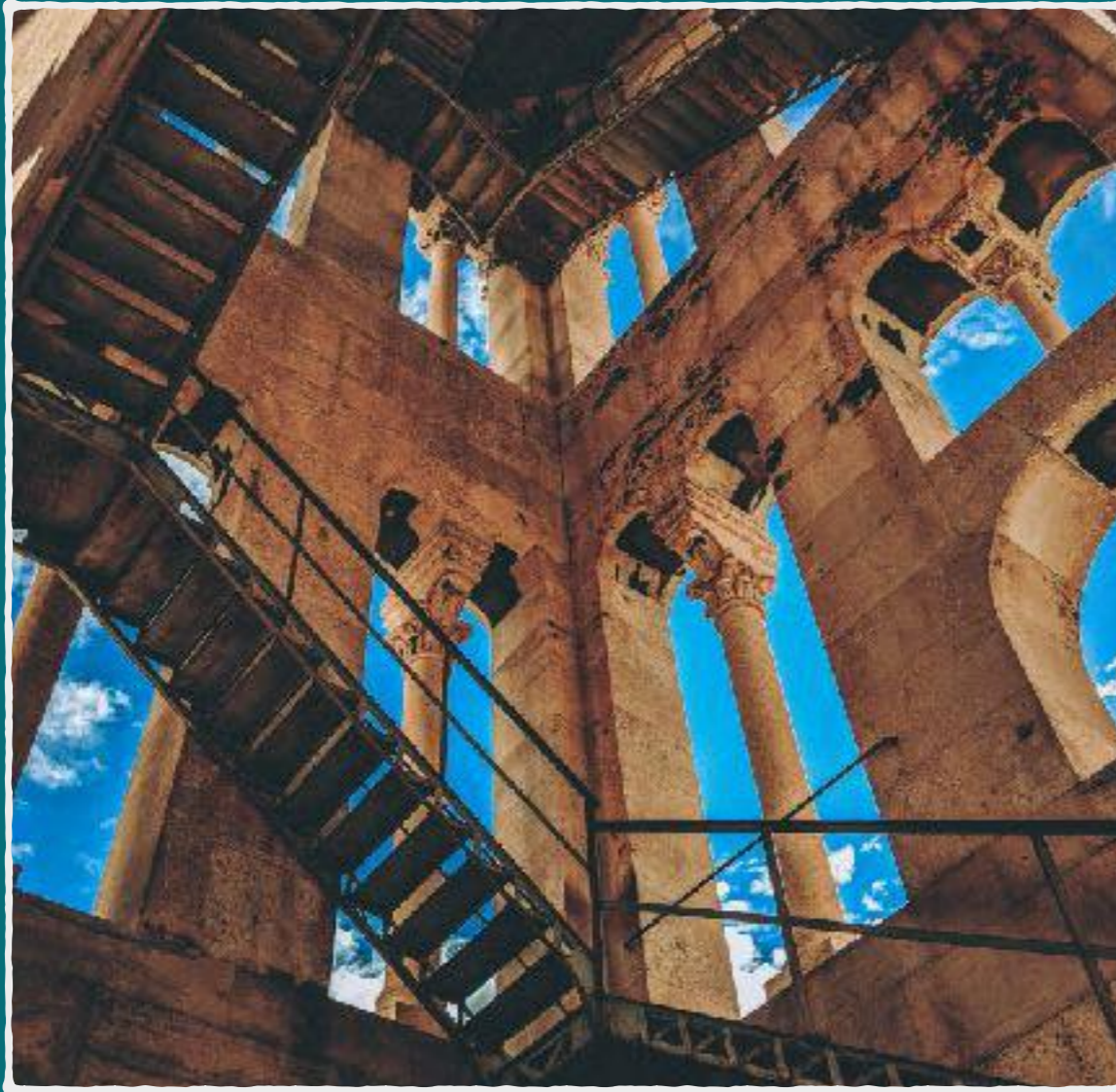
Benefits of Naysayers

- ✱ **Increase credibility with critics.**
- ✱ **Function as a preemptive strike against opponents.**
- ✱ **Treat the reader with respect.**
- ✱ **Demonstrate security of your claims.**
- ✱ **Develop your essay without the need for repetition.**

“Writing well does not mean piling up uncontroversial truths in a vacuum; it means engaging others in a dialogue or debate—not only by opening your text with a summary of what others have to say, but also imagining what others might say against your argument as it unfolds.”

--Gerald Graff, *They Say, I Say*

Rules for Naysayers



- ✱ **Represent Objections Fairly**
- ✱ **Be Willing Concede Some Element of the Argument**
- ✱ **Answer the Objections You Raise**
- ✱ **Can Be An Entire Paragraph/ Section of Your Essay or an Element of Proof Inside a Paragraph**

Templates for Naysayers

- ✱ Some may challenge the claim that _____.
- ✱ Of course, many will probably disagree with the assertion that _____.
- ✱ [Source] argues that _____.

Examples

- * Some critics of law enforcement would argue that police departments simply fail to train their officers on questions of race, but the evidence demonstrates that “the clear majority of agencies exhaustively train on race relations” (Jones 4).
- * While the American Psychological Association (Keita) argues that there are “good models of law enforcement” for agencies that want to reduce racist policing, their analysis ignores the fact that racist practices pervade even law enforcement agencies that train their staff. [EVIDENCE]

Naming Your Naysayer



- A more powerful technique is to use a named naysayer, using either a source or the identification of a person or group.
- Naming the naysayer makes it seem less formulaic, more specific, and more genuine.

Template for Naming a Naysayer

- ✱ Many feminists would probably object that _____.
- ✱ But Social Darwinists would certainly take issue with the argument that _____.
- ✱ Biologists, of course, may dispute the claim that _____.
- ✱ Adherents of Islam would object, suggesting that _____.