



## Model Argumentative Essay with Counterclaim and Rebuttal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Topic: Argue whether skateboarding should be added to your school's extracurricular activities.*

Skateboarding has gotten a bad reputation. For some reason, lots of people don't approve of the activity. Perhaps they think it's too dangerous. For many skaters, though, skateboarding is an important part of their lives. Their boards provide transportation as well as a way to spend free time and improve their skills. Adding competitive skateboarding to a school's offered options of sports is a great idea because it will benefit students and the public. It will provide a safe, organized place for skateboarding, and it will attract a group of students who might not otherwise get involved.

Consider, for a moment, the kids you know who skateboard. Most of them are not involved in extracurricular activities at school, because there's nothing for them to do. They want to skate! Providing them with an organized skate program will help these students in more ways than one. According to Passage 2, "Students who are involved in extracurricular activities are less likely to miss school than students who are not involved in extracurricular activities." That, alone, should be a strong enough reason to have skateboarding in schools. If adding this after-school activity to students' options means more students will spend more time in school, then it's a win-win situation. Not only will students who skateboard become more involved, but they will also be in a safe environment.

Organized skating is safer. Many people who skateboard have nowhere to practice their skills, other than on the streets, sidewalks, and steps where the public is walking. This is dangerous for the people walking and for the skateboarders. The author of Passage 1 states that "Most skateboarding injuries occur outside of skate parks, often on steps and railings." This shows that an organized sport held on and around a skate park would definitely be safer for skateboarders. Since skaters would be off the streets, it would be safer for the public, too.

There are lots of people who think skateboarding is still too dangerous to be an after-school sport. True, there is some risk involved, but that's no different from other athletics. As included in Passage 1, "More students are injured playing football than in any other sport. Head injuries are the most frequent and the most serious." Despite this, there isn't much talk of taking the football team away. Skateboarding isn't a contact sport, no one is hitting another person purposefully, and the injury risk goes way down in an organized skate park environment. Compared to some other sports, skateboarding doesn't seem too bad.

Skateboarding should become an official after-school sport because it will help people. There's no solid reason not to add it to the list of options. It's a good way to get students involved, and it can improve the safety for skateboarders and the public alike. If it were up to me, skateboarding would definitely make the cut.

### **INTRO PARAGRAPH**

*Find and label the following:*

*Hook & Counterclaim  
Thesis  
Mention of claims*

### **FIRST CLAIM PARAGRAPH**

*Find and label the following:*

*First claim  
Evidence with citation  
Elaboration of evidence  
Transition to next paragraph*

### **SECOND CLAIM PARAGRAPH**

*Find and label the following:*

*Second claim  
Evidence with citation  
Elaboration of evidence*

### **COUNTERCLAIM PARAGRAPH**

*Find and label the following:*

*Counterclaim  
Rebuttal & evidence  
Rebuttal elaboration*

### **CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH**

*Restatement of argument  
Restatement of claims in a new way  
Closing sentence*