

with arguments that forward another cause. The following questions can help you develop counterarguments:

- What other causes could be attributed to this phenomenon? (Why are these other causes less acceptable or less valid?)
- What other reasons do people have for disagreeing with me?
- What support will most effectively respond to opposing positions?

Concessions acknowledge the value of positions or claims other than those being forwarded by the writer. Remember that good writers (with a broad understanding of the topic) are able to concede the value of some points or qualify their own points well. As you consider your own argument, your own position about a cause, use the following questions to develop concessions and qualifiers:

- Are there legitimate reasons for taking another position on this topic?
- Does the argument make any large, but necessary, leaps?
- Do I ask my audience to accept generalizations?

Invention Workshop

For this workshop, generate opposing positions for each project. The goal here is to play devil's advocate—to imagine causes that the writer has not yet imagined. Each writer should announce his or her thesis. Group members should then take turns offering responses. Use the following questions:

- What other causes (different from the one forwarded by the writer) could be attributed to this phenomenon?
- Are there legitimate reasons for taking another position (different from the writer) on this topic?

Revision

Now get help from other writers. Before exchanging drafts with at least one other writer, underline your main idea (your thesis) or write it at the top of your draft.

Peer Review

Use the following questions to respond to specific issues in the draft:

1. Can any phrases or terms in the thesis be narrowed? If so, circle them and make some suggestions for more focus. Does the thesis avoid the common problems? (See page 254.)