Evaluating Counterclaims

1. Consider this claim:

Shopping online is more convenient than shopping in a mall.

Now consider how someone might argue against this. Which sentence presents the stronger and more reasonable counterclaim to the above claim?

When you shop in a real store, you can actually see, touch, and try on products, so you're less likely to have to return them.

Many consumers use online reviews to help with purchasing decisions whether they are shopping online or in stores.

2. Consider this claim:

Cranberry sauce, with its delicious, tart-sweet combination of flavors, is the best part of Thanksgiving dinner.

Now consider how someone might argue against this. Which sentence presents the stronger and more reasonable counterclaim to the above claim?

Cranberry sauce is not as delicious as stuffing, which soaks up gravy and becomes a crispy, gooey, aromatic, savory delight.

No one actually *eats* the Thanksgiving cranberry sauce—it is just on the table to add some festive holiday color.

3. Consider this claim:

It is easier to fly with just carry-on bags so that you don't have to wait to get your checked luggage back after the flight.

Now consider how someone might argue against this. Which sentence presents the stronger and more reasonable counterclaim to the above claim?

It is impossible to find overhead storage space for your carry-on luggage, so you always have to check it at the last minute.

If you only have carry-on luggage, you have to spend extra time figuring out what to pack and how to fit it in a smaller bag.

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