

Challenge The Claim Answer Key

Step 1 - Main Claim

- The author argues that **schools should eliminate PE and use the time for academic subjects instead.**

Step 2 - Sample Counterarguments

- Physical education is vital for **students' health**, helping to prevent obesity, diabetes, and stress.
- Exercise supports **academic performance** because healthy students focus better and learn more effectively.
- PE teaches **teamwork, discipline, and social skills** that are also important for life success.
- Removing PE would harm students who rely on school for their **only access to structured exercise.**

Step 3 - How Counterarguments Show Weaknesses

- The author assumes academics are the *only* important skills for success, but counterarguments show success also depends on **health, social, and emotional well-being.**
- The author calls PE "a waste," but evidence suggests it actually **enhances academics** rather than takes away from them.
- This challenges the author's one-sided reasoning.

Step 4 - Example Evidence Sentence

- *Research shows that students who exercise regularly perform better on standardized tests, which proves PE supports, not harms, academic learning.*

Teacher Guide/Notes

- **Skill Emphasis:** Students learn to **challenge arguments** rather than accept them at face value.
- **Extension:** After brainstorming, have students role-play a **debate**: one side defends the author's claim, the other presents counterarguments.