

## **EXAMPLE PERSUASIVE THEME WITH A COUNTERCLAIM, VERSION 2**

**Prompt:** Choose an issue that is pertinent to saving the environment, and create a claim related to that issue. Write a Persuasive Theme containing at least three major reasons explaining why your claim is correct. Also explain why your claim might be disputed. Write a total of at least 5 paragraphs. Use the MLA style.

TITLE OF PAPER: Biking: A Great Way to Get to Work!

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### Biking: A Great Way to Get to Work!

As Gabriel is getting ready for work, she puts on her biking shoes, biking clothes, and biking helmet. Is she training for the Olympics? No, this is just her usual routine for getting ready for her commute to work in the city. Into her backpack go her lunch, her high heels, and her wrinkle-free dress. In fact, Gabby is not unique; she is just one of thousands of people who believe in commuting to work on two-wheeled vehicles without motors. They believe that despite the drawbacks, biking is not only an efficient way to get to work, but it keeps them healthy while saving the environment.

Interestingly, bikers claim that biking to work can actually save time. For example, they say that riding a bike gives the commuter a lot of flexibility. When they encounter a traffic jam or an accident, they can quickly take another road. They do not get stuck in traffic. Also, bikes take up little space, are easy to maneuver, and can weave through bumper-to-bumper traffic easily. They can travel down the side of the road or even on a sidewalk if the law allows. As a result, bikers are more likely to get to work on time than drivers. In contrast, lots of people choose not to bike to work because it might take more time than driving. They complain that they have long commutes. Of course, cars can travel faster than bikes. If people have long commutes over open highway, driving a car saves time.

Another reason people provide for choosing a bike for commuting is that biking is good exercise. Indeed, they believe that the daily exercise of biking is invigorating and will keep them young. They say that they feel healthy and have fewer colds and other health problems if they ride their bikes every day. In fact, they claim that they arrive at work feeling energized and ready to work hard. They report that being outdoors instead of locked in a car fighting traffic helps them have a fresh outlook on the day. Unfortunately, others complain that biking to work can be tiring and energy draining. They do not like the thought of arriving to work exhausted after their commute. They worry that they will not be able to concentrate on their work if they are too tired. Moreover, they report that they get too sweaty and do not want to go to work in that state.

Probably the most frequent reason people give for commuting to work on a bike is that they want to save the environment. Clearly, by not using a gas “guzzler,” people can avoid using precious resources like gas and oil. They can also avoid producing pollution since bikes do not create exhaust fumes. As a result, the ozone layer does not get depleted, and global warming is less likely to occur. They believe that a little personal inconvenience is worth the price for saving the environment for everyone currently in the world and for the children yet to be born. Nevertheless, there are some people who complain that biking to work is too inconvenient. They do not want to change clothes when they get to work, and they do not want to carry another set of clothes that might get wrinkled. They do not like to have to plan two sets of clothes. Also, they do not like to have to lock up their bikes and worry about them getting stolen.

To conclude, Gabriel’s commute to work on her bike produces many benefits. She gets to work on time because she can move around and through traffic jams quickly and

easily. She arrives at work feeling energized and good about the fact that she has done her daily exercise. She stays healthy while saving money and time. She can also feel good about doing her part to save the planet. She knows that many people who say biking takes too much time, makes them tired, and is not convenient are just making excuses. Obviously, she understands that those people who have very long commutes on major highways that flow smoothly have a reason to drive their cars. She wonders whether they should consider living closer to their work place. For those who have short, congested commutes, she knows that the benefits outweigh the inconvenience. In fact, based on all the benefits associated with biking to work, Gabby wonders how can anyone not find a way to use a bike, at least for part of the time?