Recall that a research argument is not a one-sided lecture to passive listeners but a two-sided conversation in which you speak with and for your readers. You must *acknowledge* the questions and objections your readers might raise and then *respond* to them.

Use the following language and sentence stems to help you acknowledge and respond to anticipated questions or objections:

**Forms for Acknowledging**

1. You can downplay an alternative by summarizing it in a short phrase introduced with *despite*, *regardless of*, *notwithstanding*, *although*, *while*, or *even though*.
   
   *Despite* Congress's claims that it wants to cut taxes *(acknowledgment)*, the public believes that . . . *(response)*

2. You can signal an alternative with *seem* or *appear*, or with a qualifying adverb, such as *plausibly*, *reasonably*, *understandably*, *surprisingly*, *foolishly*, or *even certainly*.

   In his letters, Lincoln expresses what *appears* to be depression *(acknowledgment)*. But those who observed him . . . *(response)*

3. You can acknowledge an alternative without naming its source. This gives it just a little weight. If you name the source, that gives it more weight.

   *Some evidence* might suggest that we should . . .

   *Jones* claims that we should . . .

4. You can acknowledge an alternative in your own voice or with adverbs such as *admittedly*, *granted*, *to be sure*, and so on. This construction admits that the alternative has some validity, but by changing the words, you can qualify how valid you think it is.

   We have to *raise the possibility* that further study *might* show . . .

   We have to *consider the probability* that further study *will* show . . .

**Forms for Responding**

1. You can state that you don’t entirely understand someone’s objection.
   
   *It is not clear to me* that . . .

2. Or you can state that there are unsettled issues with someone’s objection.
   
   *But there are other issues* . . .

3. You can respond more bluntly by claiming the acknowledged person is irrelevant or unreliable.
   
   *But the evidence is unreliable* . . .