Argumentation: responding to the "reader-in-the-text"

In the chart below, consider your "position" and then fill in the points and counter-points. Based on your analysis, construct an argument.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Your point (or "position")** | **Possible differing point(s) of view** | **Counter-points** | **Your argument** |
| Curitiba needs an underground metro system | * It is expensive
* The current bus system basically does the job
 | * The system has become overcrowded
* There is evidence that people are avoiding the system due to it being overcrowded
* Buses are often slowed by increasing traffic jams
* The car traffic in Curitiba has reached a saturation point (thus worsening the second point above)
 | *Clearly, there are a number of issues with the implementation of a metro system in Curitiba. For one, it would cost the city billions in tax money. Indeed, there are estimates that the proposed system would carry a price-tag of over 15 billion reais. Furthermore, it could be argued that the current bus system basically fulfills the public transportation needs of the city. After all, Curitiba has long built a good reputation as a transport-friendly city, and indeed has successfully gotten millions of people from Point A to Point B - and back - every day for decades now. At the same time, there is also evidence that the best days of Curitiba's bus system are long gone. According to data published by XYZ (2012), the buses have become 89% more crowded since 1999. Moreover, buses do not move as fast as they once did. With the steady increase in automobile traffic (in part due to the relative ease with which car financing became available in recent years), streets have become increasingly gridlocked, and this gridlock often affects bus traffic as well. The effect of these negative trends has been that more and more people are preferring to drive to get places (Traffickjam, 2010). This increase in car use, in turn, further worsens the problem, with no relief in sight for the future. Therefore, the only realistic solution is for the city to offer an alternative system, one that can relieve the overcrowded buses and city streets.* |
| The sidewalks in Curitiba need to be fixed |  |  |  |
| Access to the Internet should be a free right for everyone |  |  |  |
| John Snow's character should have stayed dead. |  |  |  |
| People should learn American English, not British |  |  |  |
| Other |  |  |  |