 **Lesson 15: Identifying Argument and Counter-Argument**

The purpose of some passages, most often nonfiction, is to persuade the reader to see things the author’s way. Persuasive passages contain a clear **argument**—a position or stance that the author is defending. In many cases, the author also anticipates and addresses points that may be made *against* the argument. These points make up the **counter-argument**.

**DIRECTIONS: *Read the passage by Sarah Bisby, a resident of New York City. As you read, try to identify the author’s argument. Then answer the questions that follow this passage.***



* 1. Now I am convinced that all people born in small towns should live at least part of their lives in a big city. Living in the city makes you more independent, gutsy, and open minded. City life may be difficult, but it also opens your eyes to a world of opportunities and puts you in contact with people who share your ambitions.
	2. When I return to my hometown, my friends ask, “So when are you coming home?” I shake my head and say, “When I start getting bored.” That is not likely to happen for a long, long time.

