Conflicting Arguments

When you are creating a conflicting argument, be sure to select an argument that addresses the point that you are trying to make in the given paragraph. This will be a “supporting thesis” rather than the overall thesis of your paper. For example:

**Thesis:** Velvet Dip is better than Dairy Queen.

**Supporting argument:** Velvet Dip uses real ice cream, whereas Dairy Queen uses ice milk. Real ice cream is better than ice milk because it tastes better.

**Conflicting argument:** Ice cream may taste better, but it is higher in fat than ice milk, and therefore less healthy.

Note that this argument conflicts with the main point of my supporting argument—that the use of ice cream is better than ice milk.

**Conflicting argument:** Dairy Queen has a greater variety of treats, so it is better.

While this argument conflicts with my central thesis, it has nothing to do with the supporting argument (ice cream vs. ice milk). This is not an appropriate conflicting argument.

Once you have made your conflicting argument, be sure to have a response! You do not want to defeat your own supporting thesis.