

GRE写作

6.2 Argument 写作指令-找假设-文章结构

唐盛

写作指令

Writing Instructions

1. evidence
2. Write a response in which you examine the stated and/or **unstated assumptions** of the argument. Be sure to explain how the argument depends on these assumptions and what the implications are if the assumptions prove unwarranted.
3. question
4. question
5. question
- ...

找假设 - Examine Assumptions

Argument No. 3

In surveys Mason City residents rank water sports (swimming, boating and fishing) among their favorite recreational activities. The Mason River flowing through the city is rarely used for these pursuits, however, and the city park department devotes little of its budget to maintaining riverside recreational facilities. For years there have been complaints from residents about the quality of the river's water and the river's smell. In response, the state has recently announced plans to clean up Mason River. Use of the river for water sports is therefore sure to increase. The city government should for that reason devote more money in this year's budget to riverside recreational facilities.

开头段 The Introductory Paragraph

Two Steps

1. briefly summarize the argument
2. challenge the argument according to the instruction

开头段 The Introductory Paragraph

Two Steps

While it may be true that the Mason City government ought to devote more money to riverside recreational facilities, this author's argument does not make a cogent case for increased resources based on river use. It is easy to understand why city residents would want a cleaner river. **[briefly summarize the argument]** The author, however, bases his reasoning upon several unwarranted **assumptions**, thereby rendering unpersuasive his conclusion, i.e. increasing funding for maintaining riverside recreational facilities. **[challenge the argument]** (58 words)

中间段 The Body Paragraph

1. Assumption

The author assumes that ...

assumes: implies, believes, presumes

It is assumed in the argument that

There is an assumption in the argument that

Implicitly stated in the article is the belief that

What underlies the author's thinking is that

....

中间段 The Body Paragraph

1. Assumption

2. Challenge the Assumption

2.1 One-size-fits-all
2.2 Topic-specific

This assumption, however, is unwarranted.

This assumption is unwarranted, however.

This might not be the case, though.

This is not the case.

...

中间段 The Body Paragraph

1. Assumption

2. Challenge the Assumption

2.1 One-size-fits-all
2.2 Topic-specific

*A concrete connection between A and B is not effectively made.
The causal relationship between A and B has yet to be proven.*

...

中间段 The Body Paragraph

1. Assumption

2. Challenge the Assumption

2.1 One-size-fits-all
2.2 Topic-specific

3. Alternative Explanations

counterexamples

For example, Moreover,

Perhaps, Or perhaps

It is quite possible that It might also be that

What if or How about

中间段 The Body Paragraph

1. Assumption

2. Challenge the Assumption

2.1 One-size-fits-all
2.2 Topic-specific

3. Alternative Explanations

(4. Summary: double negation)

4.1 If not, then
4.2 Without, then
4.3 Unless, then

(5. Suggestion)

To strengthen his/her argument, the author might have to

中间段 The Body Paragraph

1. Assumption

2. Challenge the Assumption

2.1 One-size-fits-all
2.2 Topic-specific

3. Alternative Explanations

(4. Summary: double negation)

4.1 If not, then
4.2 Without, then
4.3 Unless, then

(5. Suggestion)

*The author might have to **conduct a normed survey on***

中间段 The Body Paragraph

1. *The surveys were effectively carried out and therefore valid.*
2. *It is because of the poor quality of the river that Mason City residents have been reluctant to participate in water sports.*
 - a) *challenge the cause or the effect - data*
 - b) *point out the lack of empirical evidence - no survey/experiment*
 - c) *offer alternative explanations - easy*
3. *The announced plans will and can be successfully implemented.*
 - a) *They have an irresponsible governor. (will)*
 - b) *The pollution has been so severe that the state does not ... (can)*
 - c) *The pollution has been irreversible. (can)*
 - d) *The pollution is from the upper reaches of the river. (can)*
 - e) *The smell is not a result of pollution, but a result of odorous ... (can)*
 - f) *Dealing with the pollution might affect the local economy. (will)*

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中间段 The Body Paragraph

Citing surveys of city residents, the author reports city resident's love of water sports. **[assumption]** It is not clear, however, the scope and validity of that survey. **[challenge the assumption]** For example, the survey could have asked residents if they prefer using the river for water sports or would like to see a hydroelectric dam built, which may have swayed residents toward river sports. The sample may not have been representative of city residents, asking only those residents who live upon the river. The survey may have been 10 pages long, with 2 questions dedicated to river sports. We just do not know. **[alternative explanations]** Unless the survey is fully representative, valid, and reliable, it can not be used to effectively back the author's argument. **[summary: double negation]** (119 words)

中间段 The Body Paragraph

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中间段 The Body Paragraph

Additionally, the author implies that residents do not use the river for swimming, boating, and fishing, despite their professed interest, because the water is polluted and smelly. **[assumption]** While a polluted, smelly river would likely cut down on river sports, a concrete connection between the resident's lack of river use and the river's current state is not effectively made. **[challenge the assumption]** Though there have been complaints, we do not know if there have been numerous complaints from a wide range of people, or perhaps from one or two individuals who made numerous complaints. **[alternative explanations]** To strengthen his/her argument, the author would benefit from implementing a normed survey asking a wide range of residents why they do not currently use the river. **[suggestion]** (117 words)

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Additionally, the author implies that residents do not use the river for swimming, boating, and fishing, despite their professed interest, because the water is polluted and smelly. **[assumption]** While a polluted, smelly river would likely cut down on river sports, a concrete connection between the resident's lack of river use and the river's current state is not effectively made. **[challenge the assumption]** Though there have been complaints, we do not know if there have been numerous complaints from a wide range of people, or perhaps from one or two individuals who made numerous complaints. **[alternative explanations]** To strengthen his/her argument, the author would benefit from implementing a normed survey asking a wide range of residents why they do not currently use the river. **[suggestion]** (117 words)

中间段 The Body Paragraph

Additionally, the author implies that residents do not use the river for swimming, boating, and fishing, despite their professed interest, because the water is polluted and smelly. **[assumption]** This is unfairly assumed, however, given a lack of concrete data. **[challenge the assumption]** Though there have been complaints, we do not know if there have been numerous complaints from a wide range of people, or perhaps from one or two individuals who made numerous complaints. **[alternative explanations]** To strengthen his/her argument, the author would benefit from implementing a normed survey asking a wide range of residents why they do not currently use the river. **[suggestion]**

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中间段 The Body Paragraph

Even if the data is statistically significant, the author has also failed to rule out other possible reasons why the residents shun away from their “favorite recreational activities”. **[challenge the assumption]** If the economic conditions in Mason City has not fared well during the past few years, then residents there would have to devote too much time to work to have extra time for recreation activities, even for their favorite ones. It is also possible that the Mason River is unsuitable for water sports, either because it is too shallow for boating or because it is too fast-flowing for swimming. **[alternative explanations]**

The Holmes Law

中间段 The Body Paragraph

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结尾段 The Concluding Paragraph

One to Two Steps

1. challenge argument again
2. more suggestions, if any

写作指令

Writing Instructions

1. **evidence**
2. assumption
3. question
4. question
5. question
6. question
7. alternative explanation
8. question

Thanks

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