新东方在线

GRE写作

6.7 Argument 写作指令-找解释

唐盛

写作指令

Writing Instructions

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

写作指令

Writing Instructions

...

4. question
5. question
6. question
7. Write a response in which you discuss one or more **alternative explanations** that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.
8. question

找解释 - Discuss Alternative Explanations

Argument No. 80

The following appeared as part of a letter to the editor of a scientific journal.
"A recent study of eighteen rhesus monkeys provides clues as to the effects of birth order on an individual's levels of stimulation. The study showed that in stimulating situations (such as an encounter with an unfamiliar monkey), firstborn infant monkeys produce up to twice as much of the hormone cortisol, which primes the body for increased activity levels, as do their younger siblings. Firstborn humans also produce relatively high levels of cortisol in stimulating situations (such as the return of a parent after an absence). The study also found that during pregnancy, first-time mother monkeys had higher levels of cortisol than did those who had had several offspring."

*Write a response in which you discuss one or more **alternative explanations** that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.*

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A → B	birth order → individual's reaction to stimulation
A → B_1	birth order → infant monkey's reaction to stimulation
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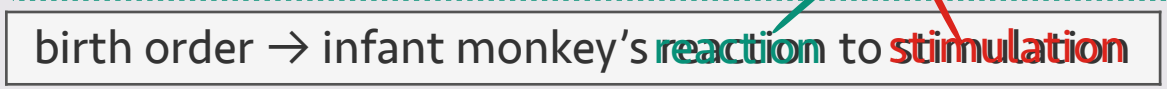

The Holmes Law

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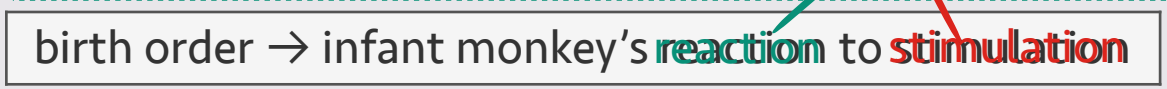

What kind of activity are older infant monkeys going to do as they see strange monkeys?

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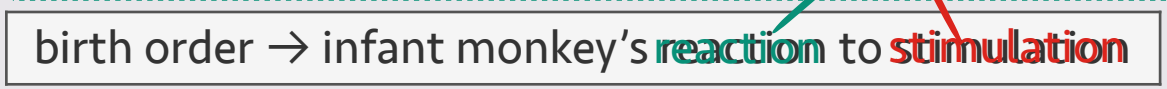

1. Younger siblings are less mature and thus might not regard a trespassing monkey as a threat.
   a) "They are all infant monkeys!"
   b) "This explanation is still relevant to birth order!"

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birth order → children's reaction to stimulation

2. Older children might be left alone at home without company, thereby feeling more lonely.

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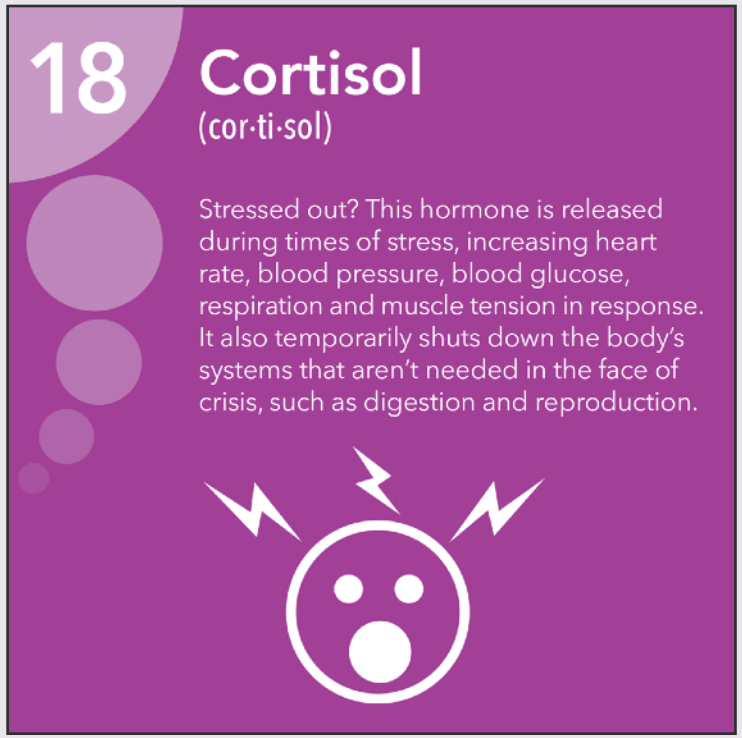

hormone.org

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birth order → children's reaction to stimulation

2. Older children might be blamed for not having taken good care of their younger brothers, or for not having done their homework.

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birth order → mother monkeys' reaction to stimulation

3. First-time mother monkeys might be oversensitive to any changes in their surroundings.

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1. Younger siblings are less mature and thus might not regard a trespassing monkey as a threat.
2. Older children might be left alone at home without company, lonely.
3. First-time mother monkeys might be oversensitive to any changes in their surroundings.

开头段 The Introductory Paragraph

Argument No. 80

The so-called clues the letter to the editor of a so-called scientific journal presents seem at first glance to be plausible and almost confirm the effects of birth order on an individual's levels of stimulation. After all, it is firstborn monkeys, firstborn children and first-time monkey mothers (individuals that are also strong indicators of the concept of "birth order") that produce higher levels of cortisol in stimulating circumstances. **[briefly summarize the argument]** However, the letter's too hasty reliance on birth order as an explanation for different levels of stimulation may mask the real causes of such stimulation, causes that might have something to do with an individual's living environment or psyche. **[challenge the argument]** (107 words).

中间段 The Body Paragraph

The letter first of all implicitly uses birth order to explain firstborn infant monkeys' more active reaction towards unfamiliar monkeys. **[the author's explanation]** This explanation, however, is weakened by the fact that firstborn infant monkeys compared with their younger siblings have a better cognizance of what's out there in the world. **[your explanation]** It's true that an unfamiliar monkey is perhaps considered as a threat to the infant monkeys' territory, but understandably the most newly born baby monkeys haven't grown up to a certain age to be aware of such threats. Yet it's almost certain that only after a couple of months, if not weeks, will the youngest baby monkeys realize the necessity of joining their elder sisters of brothers to fend off unfamiliar guests. If this is the case, firstborn infant monkeys' higher levels of stimulation are at best loosely associated with birth order. **[account for your explanation]** (140 words)

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Thanks

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