新东方在线

GRE写作

7.1 Argument 难题串讲-找假设

唐盛

新东方在线

课程大纲（27讲）

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找假设 - Examine Assumptions

Argument No. 1

Hospital statistics regarding people who go to the emergency room after roller-skating accidents indicate the need for more protective equipment. Within that group of people, 75 percent of those who had accidents in streets or parking lots had not been wearing any protective clothing (helmets, knee pads, etc.) or any light-reflecting material (clip-on lights, glow-in-the-dark wrist pads, etc.). Clearly, the statistics indicate that by investing in high-quality protective gear and reflective equipment, roller skaters will greatly reduce their risk of being severely injured in an accident.

*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 for the argument if the assumptions prove unwarranted.*

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Assumptions:

1. *It is because the 75 percent of people did not wear any gears that they suffered from injuries while roller-skating.*

   no gear → *injury*

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Assumptions:

1. *It is because the 75 percent of people did not wear any gears that they suffered from injuries while roller-skating.*

   a) challenge the cause or the effect ***- data***

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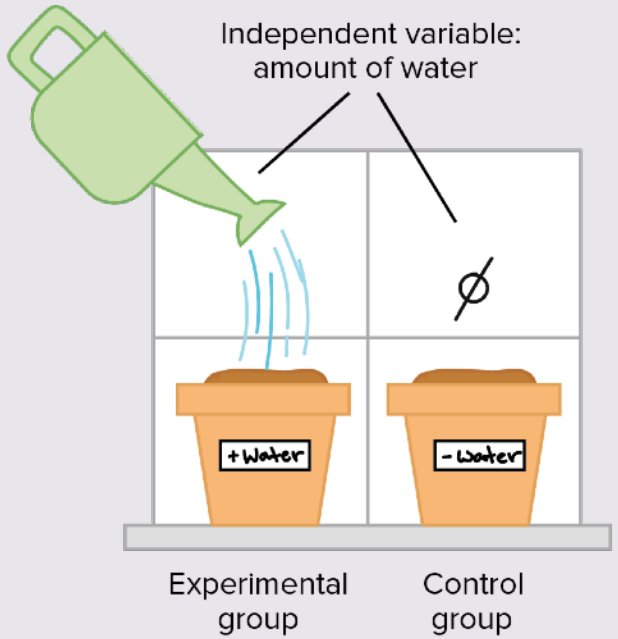
Assumptions:

1. *It is because the 75 percent of people did not wear any gears that they suffered from injuries while roller-skating.*
   a) challenge the cause or the effect ***- data***
   b) point out the lack of empirical evidence ***- no survey/experiment***

   controlled experiment

找假设 - Examine Assumptions



controlled experiment

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controlled experiment	survey: 1) those who wear gear; 2) those who don't

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1. *It is because the 75 percent of people did not wear any gears that they suffered from injuries while roller-skating.*
   a) challenge the cause or the effect ***- data***
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   controlled experiment survey: 1) those who wear gear; 2) those who don't

   survey: 1) both; 2) protective; 3) preventative; 4) neither

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Assumptions:

1. *It is because the 75 percent of people did not wear any gears that they suffered from injuries while roller-skating.*
   - *a) challenge the cause or the effect* - ***data***
   - *b) point out the lack of empirical evidence* - ***no survey/experiment***
   - *c) offer alternative explanations* - ***easy***
     - *i. poor skills*

The Holmes Law

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Assumptions:

1. *It is because the 75 percent of people did not wear any gears that they suffered from injuries while roller-skating.*
   a) challenge the cause or the effect - ***data***
   b) point out the lack of empirical evidence - ***no survey/experiment***
   c) offer alternative explanations - ***easy***
      i. *poor skills; ii. extreme sports lovers → dangerous moves*

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Assumptions:

1. *It is because the 75 percent of people did not wear any gears that they suffered from injuries while roller-skating.*
2. *Those uninjured were wearing high-quality gears.*
3. *Those going to the hospital were all severely injured.* - recreational activity

找假设 - Examine Assumptions

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Two Last Resorts:

1. *challenge the necessity*
   There are better ways to prevent injuries for roller-skaters.
2. *advantages v.s. disadvantages*
   Roller-skaters might be overconfident and thus more prone to accidents.

找假设 - Examine Assumptions

Consider how a seat belt law alters a driver's cost–benefit calculation. Seat belts make accidents less costly because they reduce the likelihood of injury or death. In other words, seat belts reduce the benefits of slow and careful driving. People respond to seat belts as they would to an improvement in road conditions—by driving faster and less carefully. The result of a seat belt law, therefore, is a larger number of accidents. The decline in safe driving has a clear, adverse impact on pedestrians, who are more likely to find themselves in an accident but (unlike the drivers) don't have the benefit of added protection.

At first, this discussion of incentives and seat belts might seem like idle speculation. Yet in a classic 1975 study, economist Sam Peltzman argued that auto-safety laws have had many of these effects. According to Peltzman's evidence, these laws give rise to fewer deaths per accident but also to more accidents. He concluded that the net result is little change in the number of driver deaths and an increase in the number of pedestrian deaths.

The Fourth Principle of Economic

开头段 The Introductory Paragraph

Two Steps

The notion that protective gear reduces the injuries suffered in accidents seems at first glance to be an obvious conclusion. After all, it is the intent of these products to either prevent accidents from occurring in the first place or reduce the injuries suffered by the wearer should an accident occur. **[briefly summarize the argument]** However, the conclusion that investing in high quality protective gear greatly reduces the risk of being severely injured in an accident is based on several assumptions pending substantiation. It therefore may mask other (and potentially more significant) causes of injuries and may even inspire people to over invest financially and psychologically in protective gear. **[challenge the argument]** (105 words)

中间段 The Body Paragraph

First of all, the arguer without a second thought believes that the two distinct kinds of gear--preventative gear (such as light reflecting material) and protective gear (such as helmets) must be invested at the same time. **[assumption]** He/she omits to thoroughly examine which kind of gear is more likely to be effective. **[challenge the assumption]** Preventative gear is intended to warn others, presumably for the most part motorists, of the presence of the roller skater. It works only if the "other" is a responsible and caring individual who will afford the skater the necessary space and attention. Protective gear is intended to reduce the effect of any accident, whether it is caused by another skater or some force of nature. Protective gear does little, if anything, to prevent accidents but is presumed to reduce the injuries that occur in an accident. The statistics on injuries suffered by skaters would be more interesting if the skaters were grouped into those wearing no gear at all, those wearing protective gear only, those wearing preventative gear only and those wearing both. These statistics could provide skaters with a clearer understanding of which kinds of gear are more beneficial. **[controlled experiment needed]** (192 words)

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Thanks

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