

GRE写作

7.2 Argument 难题串讲-找证据

唐盛

找证据 - Discuss Evidence

Argument No. 42

An ancient, traditional remedy for insomnia—the scent of lavender flowers—has now been proved effective. In a recent study, 30 volunteers with chronic insomnia slept each night for three weeks on lavender-scented pillows in a controlled room where their sleep was monitored electronically. During the first week, volunteers continued to take their usual sleeping medication. They slept soundly but awakened feeling tired. At the beginning of the second week, the volunteers discontinued their sleeping medication. During that week, they slept less soundly than the previous week and felt even more tired. During the third week, the volunteers slept longer and more soundly than in the previous two weeks. Therefore, the study proves that lavender cures insomnia within a short period of time.

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Evidence:

1. *To evaluate this argument, we first need to know whether there is a control group.*

找证据 - Discuss Evidence

*A **control group** should be included in which the test subjects are given normal pillows but are at the same time told to have been given the lavender-scented pillows.*

Evidence:

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Evidence:

2. *We also need to know why the volunteers slept less soundly and felt more tired during the second week.*

找证据 - Discuss Evidence

a) That they stopped taking sleeping medication in the second week might have suggested that they relied heavily on medication to sleep soundly.

b) In other words, the lavender-scented pillows had very limited effect in improving the volunteers' sleeping quality.

Evidence:

2. We also need to know why the volunteers slept less soundly and felt more tired during the second week.

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Evidence:

3. *To fully evaluate this argument, we also have to figure out why the volunteers all of a sudden slept more soundly in the third week.*

找证据 - Discuss Evidence

a) Probably, the “controlled room” was rather quiet.

b) It is even highly likely that they started to sleep more soundly only because they had been too sleep-deprived during the first two weeks.

Evidence:

- 3. To fully evaluate this argument, we also have to figure out why the volunteers all of a sudden slept more soundly in the third week.*

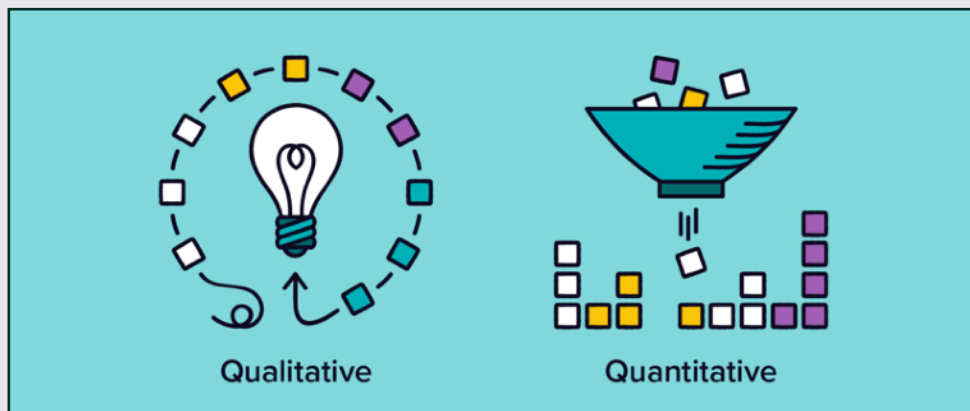
找证据 - Discuss Evidence

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Evidence:

4. *What's more, we ought to pay attention to one important detail:
Exactly how much longer and more soundly the volunteers slept in the third week than in the previous two weeks.*

找证据 - Discuss Evidence



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If we were to learn that they just slept for one more hour averagely per night, and that the aggregate amount of sleep time is still less than that enjoyed by those not sleep-deprived, then the effect might be negligible.

Evidence:

4. *What's more, we ought to pay attention to one important detail: Exactly how much longer and more soundly the volunteers slept in the third week than in the previous two weeks.*

找证据 - Discuss Evidence

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Evidence:

5. *Finally, how has the volunteers' sleep been after the experiment might help us evaluate this argument even more thoroughly.*

找证据 - Discuss Evidence

a) The author says that their insomnia was cured, but if they continued to suffer from sleep-deprivation, then the author's conclusion is premature.

b) The experimenters must extend the duration of their study to a period of years, not weeks, to confirm the efficacy of the lavender-scented pillows.

Evidence:

5. Finally, how has the volunteers' sleep been after the experiment might help us evaluate this argument even more thoroughly.

找证据 - Discuss Evidence



"Good relationships keeps us happier and healthier."

The Harvard Study of Adult Development:

Evidence:

5. Finally, how has the volunteers' sleep been after the experiment might help us evaluate this argument even more thoroughly.

找证据 - Discuss Evidence

Argument 42:

1. *To evaluate this argument, we first need to know whether there is a control group.*
2. *We also need to know why the volunteers slept less soundly and felt more tired during the second week.*
3. *To fully evaluate this argument, we also have to figure out why the volunteers all of a sudden slept more soundly in the third week.*
4. *What's more, we ought to pay attention to one important detail: Exactly how much longer and more soundly the volunteers slept in the third week than in the previous two weeks.*
5. *Finally, how has the volunteers' sleep been after the experiment might help us evaluate this argument even more thoroughly.*

开头段 The Introductory Paragraph

Two Steps

In the argument, the author puts tremendous trust in a recent study on the effect of lavender-scented pillows on treating chronic insomnia. He/she even concludes that this traditional therapy can cure sleeplessness within a period of time. **[Briefly summarize the argument]** Information concerning the details of the study is very limited, however, making it difficult for us to evaluate this whole argument **without an abundant amount additional evidence provided.** **[challenge the argument]** [65 words]

中间段 The Body Paragraph

To effectively evaluate this argument, we first need to know whether the researchers in the study have included a control group. **[evidence]** Lacking a control group, one is unable determine whether the volunteers' improved sleep quality was the result of the lavender-scented pillow or that of the placebo effect. **[why]** Whether one has slept more soundly is a quite subjective experience, and the volunteers might think that they have slept better because of this special treatment even though in reality nothing significant has been improved. With a control group, preferably one in which test subjects sleep on pillows without the lavender scent and are told to have been given the scented ones, the placebo effect can be eliminated. For example, if both the treatment group and the control group say that they have improved sleep quality, then scented pillows might not have any effect and the arguer's conclusion is therefore seriously weakened. **[alternative explanations]** (150 words)

Thanks

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