

GRE

ARGUMENT WRITING

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GRE COURSE SECTIONS

1. Introduction

2. Quantitative Reasoning

1. Quantitative Questions Formats
2. Arithmetic & Algebra
3. Geometry
4. Data Interpretation

3. Verbal Reasoning

1. Verbal Questions Formats (Sentence Equivalence & Text Completion)
2. Reading Comprehension

4. Analytical Writing

1. General Writing
2. Argument Writing
3. Issue Writing

5. General Writing

1. Writing Ideas
2. Cohesion & Coherence
3. Writing Sentence Variety
4. Grammar
5. Punctuation
6. The magic of 3

ANALYZE AN ARGUMENT

| Task | Time Allowed | Answer Format |
|---------------------|--------------|---|
| Analyze An Argument | 30 Minutes | Short essay that analyzes another person's argument for validity, soundness and supporting evidence |

https://www.ets.org/gre/institutions/about/general/scoring/argument_scoring_guide



SIMILAR TOPICS IN ARGUMENT POOL

- 1
- 2
- 3, 166
- 4
- 5, 151, 164
- 6
- 7, 91, 92
- 8
- 9, 83, 81
- 10, 19, 21
- 11
- 12
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- 14, 111
- 15, 48, 123, 124, 126
- 16, 86, 102, 103
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- 20, 112, 113, 131
- 22, 24, 26
- 23, 93, 95, 156
- 25, 27
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- 30, 97, 98, 99, 159
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- 32, 55, 87
- 33, 49, 121, 122
- 34, 155, 158
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- 36, 88, 89
- 37, 165
- 38
- 39, 116, 118
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- 43, 46
- 44, 104, 105
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- 50, 137, 143
- 51, 157
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- 53, 54, 75
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- 57, 138, 139, 142, 146, 147
- 58, 132, 134, 136, 154
- 59, 114, 115, 117
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- 62, 100, 101
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- 65, 66, 108
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- 71, 161
- 72, 107, 109, 110
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- 76, 77
- 78, 80
- 79, 82
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- 85, 94, 96
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- 106, 119, 120, 153
- 125, 127, 129
- 128, 130, 133
- 135
- 140, 141, 148
- 144, 145
- 149, 150
- 152, 163
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- 167
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- 169, 171
- 170
- 172
- 173
- 174
- 175

THE SPECIFIC DIRECTIONS ARGUMENT

Following is a list of the specific directions you will be asked to follow as you analyze an argument in your response.

1. Write a response in which you discuss what specific evidence is needed to evaluate the argument and explain how the evidence would weaken or strengthen the argument.
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 for the argument if the assumptions prove unwarranted.
3. Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.
4. Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the advice and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the advice.
5. Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation is likely to have the predicted result. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.
6. Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the prediction and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the prediction.
7. Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be addressed in order to decide whether the conclusion and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to the questions would help to evaluate the conclusion.
8. Write a response in which you discuss one or more alternative explanations that could rival explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.

ARGUMENT TASK 1: EVALUATE AN ARGUMENT AND EVIDENCE

- Write a response in which you discuss what specific evidence is needed to evaluate the argument and explain how the evidence would weaken or strengthen the argument.
- 1, 6, 8, 12, 13, 16, 19, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 41, 44, 45, 47, 50, 54, 55, 66, 67, 68, 72, 76, 78, 79, 81, 84, 92, 98, 101, 117, 118, 119, 121, 126, 127, 128, 131, 134, 139, 147, 150, 163
- What they're really asking: Discuss how different, specific **evidence** could **weaken or strengthen** the argument.
- Number of topics in the GRE argument pool on this task: 52/176 (**29.5%**)

ARGUMENT TASK 2: EXAMINE ASSUMPTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS

- 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.
- 4, 9, 14, 17, 21, 26, 30, 31, 32, 39, 42, 46, 51, 52, 53, 56, 57, 59, 60, 61, 64, 71, 80, 82, 83, 88, 91, 93, 94, 100, 102, 104, 108, 110, 114, 122, 123, 125, 130, 135, 136, 137, 140, 145, 149, 153, 164
- What they're really asking: Discuss **assumptions** made in the argument and how the argument would be **strengthened or weakened if the assumptions are wrong**.
- Number of topics in the GRE argument pool on this task: 50/176 (**28.4%**)

ARGUMENT TASK 3: EVALUATE A RECOMMENDATION AND ITS BASIS

- Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.
- 10, 18, 20, 27, 58, 73, 86, 95, 105, 107, 111, 116, 120, 129, 133, 142, 144, 146, 158, 159, 166, 170
- What they're really asking: Discuss the **different, specific questions that would need to be answered to determine how reasonable the recommendation is.**
- Number of topics in the GRE argument pool on this task: 24/176 (**13.6%**)

ARGUMENT TASK 4: EVALUATE ADVICE AND QUESTIONS

- Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the advice and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the advice.
- 70, 106
- What they're really asking: Discuss the **different, specific questions** needed to determine if the **advice and the argument it's based on are reasonable**.
- This task is pretty much the same as task 3; the main difference is in the way the prompt is worded (as advice vs. a recommendation being given).
- Number of topics in the GRE argument pool on this task: 2/176 (**1.1%**)

ARGUMENT TASK 5: EVALUATE A RECOMMENDATION'S LIKELY RESULTS

- Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation is likely to have the predicted result. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.
- 3, 5, 7, 48, 49, 62, 63, 69, 90, 99, 113, 132, 141, 148, 152, 154, 155, 160, 161, 162, 168, 169
- What they're really asking: Discuss **specific questions and information** that would be needed to **show the recommendation would have the expected outcome**.
- Number of topics in the GRE argument pool on this task: 21/176 (**11.9%**)

ARGUMENT TASK 6: EVALUATE A PREDICTION AND ITS BASIS

- Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the prediction and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the prediction.
- 11, 22, 33, 43, 65, 75, 87, 89, 103, 124, 138, 143, 151, 156
- What they're really asking: Discuss the **specific questions** that need to be answered to determine **how reasonable the prediction and its basis are**.
- Number of topics in the GRE argument pool on this task: 14/176 (8.0%)

ARGUMENT TASK 7: EVALUATE A CONCLUSION AND ITS BASIS

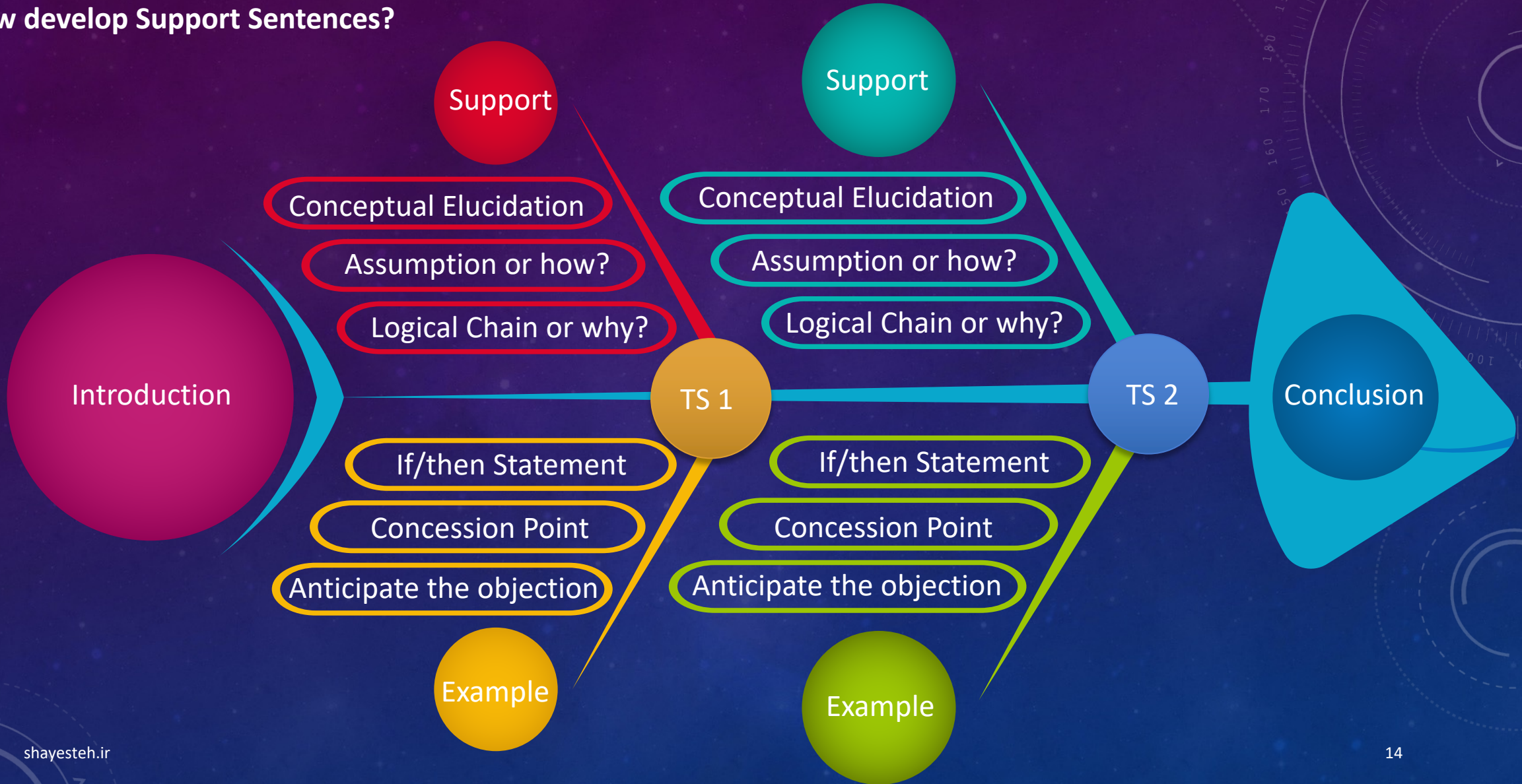
- Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be addressed in order to decide whether the conclusion and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to the questions would help to evaluate the conclusion.
- 74, 165
- What they're really asking: Discuss the **specific questions** that need to be answered to **determine if the conclusion and its basis are reasonable**.
- Number of topics in the GRE argument pool on this task: 2/176 (1.1%)

ARGUMENT TASK 8: DISCUSS ALTERNATIVE EXPLANATIONS

- Write a response in which you discuss one or more alternative explanations that could rival explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.
- 2, 15, 77, 85, 96, 97, 109, 112, 115, 157, 167, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175
- What they're really asking: Discuss **alternative explanations** that would reasonably **explain the evidence** discussed in the argument.
- Number of topics in the GRE argument pool on this task: 11/176 (6.3%)

Fishbone Concept

How develop Support Sentences?



HOWEVER & CONNECTION & ...

- However, but, nevertheless, though, although, ...
- <https://www.wikihow.com/Use-However>
- If ... then However/but, if ... then (contrast and compare)
- the author does not effectively show a connection between ... and
- a concrete connection between ... and ... is not effectively made.

PRACTICE CONCLUSION (LINK BACK) OF PARAGRAPHS

- Unless the survey is fully representative, valid, and reliable, it can not be used to effectively back the author's argument.
- 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.
- Regardless of whether the river's quality is able to be improved or not, the author does not effectively show a connection between water quality and river usage.

HOW TO WRITE A GREAT GRE ARGUMENT ESSAY

- Fact #1: It doesn't matter who is right
- Fact #2: You'll have just 30 minutes
- Fact #4: Quality matters, but so does quantity
- Fact #5: The prompt will tell you everything you need to know
- Fact #6: Structure will save you
- Fact #7: Clear writing is key
- Fact #9: You don't have to be perfect to earn a perfect score

Fact #5: The prompt will tell you everything you need to know:

Lack of evidence to support an assumption

Non-specific language

Jumping to conclusions

Data values

Fact #6: Structure will save you

Intro

Fallacies

Suggestions for improving the prompt argument

Conclusion

استراتژی کلی پاراگراف اصلی

- بیان متن مشکل دار به زبان دیگر
- بنابر صورت سوال ، چه مشکلی این قسمت از متن دارد (فرض ، شواهد ، مستندات ، ...)
- به عنوان مثال این مشکل میتواند منجر به چه مواردی بشود (یک تا ۳ مورد)
- راه حل (Link back & Connection)

MOST IMPORTANT GENERAL STRATEGY

- Write essay with emphasis on instructions category
- Some types of instructions:
 - Extra evidence needed
 - Assumptions and roles
 - Other explanations

https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/analytical_writing/argument/sample_responses

<https://gre.economist.com/gre-advice/analytical-writing-section/analyze-argument/how-structure-your-argument-essay>

<https://www.kaptest.com/study/gre/how-to-structure-the-gre-argument-essay/>

<https://www.greedge.com/analytical-writing/templates>

<https://magoosh.com/gre/gre-argument-essay-strategies/>

ARGUMENT (GRE.ECONOMIST)

Now let's turn to the GRE Analyze an Argument essay. The following task is from the Official Guide:

- *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.*
- *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 the assumptions and what the implications are if the assumptions prove unwarranted.*

STRUCTURE

- A good way to structure your essay in this case would be to write an introduction, three main paragraphs and a conclusion.
- The conclusion of the argument is that Mason City should devote more money to riverside recreational activities. The first sentence of your introduction could make the point that the argument does not make a good case for that conclusion.
- The second sentence can say that the argument is full of assumptions and therefore is not proven.

FIRST MAIN PARAGRAPH

2

Now let's move to your first main paragraph.

- The first sentence can mention one of the supports the argument uses, for example, the surveys.
- Next, you can say that there are problems with the surveys.
- The third sentence can be specific about the problems. For example, we don't know the exact questions the residents were asked.
- The fourth sentence can point out that we don't know if the sample was representative of Mason City's residents.
- Any other problems you can think of in relation to the surveys can come here.
- The last sentence can reiterate that the surveys cannot be used to back the author's argument.

SECOND MAIN PARAGRAPH

3

Second Main Paragraph:

- Mention the second argument of the author that residents don't use the river much because they complain that it is dirty and smelly.
- Point out a problem with this argument. For example, we don't know how many complaints have been received.
- Finally, suggest how this problem could be solved. For example, a survey could be done of a wide range of residents.

THIRD MAIN PARAGRAPH

4

Third Main Paragraph:

- Mention the next argument of the author, namely that cleaning up the river will lead more people to use it.
- Point out a problem with that argument. For example, it may not be possible to clean up the river.
- Reiterate that, therefore, an attempt to clean up the river may not lead to increased usage.

CONCLUSION

Conclusion:

- Reiterate that the author's argument is not likely to achieve its aim, in this case, to persuade the government to increase funding for the river.

ARGUMENT (KAPLAN)

- Your essay should be 5-6 paragraphs in which you will criticize an argument, describe how it could be improved, and reiterate that is it overall weak and unconvincing.

TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 1: – INTRODUCTION (3-4 SENTENCES)

1

- Start by showing the reader that you understand the parts of the argument.. Make sure you have identified the Conclusion, Evidence, and underlying Assumptions of the argument in your pre-writing phase. Do not use self-reference, or the words “I agree” or “I disagree” anywhere in your essay. You will absolutely use phrases like “the argument” and “the author.”. Here are the main points to hit:
- Restate the author’s conclusion (his opinion) and identify it specifically as a conclusion.
- Summarize the facts or proposals the author provides that leads him to his conclusion—and identify them specially as evidence.
- Your thesis (final sentence): state unequivocally that the argument is flawed.

TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 1: INTRODUCTION (3-4 SENTENCES)

2

- For example, your introduction could take a form like this:
 - Recently, _____. Regarding this issue, the author of the argument concludes _____. He presents evidence to suggest this is valid including _____. Though the underlying issue may have merit, because of a lack of relevant evidence, unaddressed assumptions, and vague terminology, the author's argument is unsubstantiated and deeply flawed.
- There is no need to list your the specifics of your three examples in your thesis. Save your writing time and energy for the central portion of your essay.

TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 2: – LACK OF EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT AN ASSUMPTION (4-6 SENTENCES)

3

- Almost every Argument has unsupported assumptions. Identify a primary assumption and give examples of evidence that would make the assumption unlikely to be true and therefore weaken the conclusion. You are not expected to disprove the conclusion; instead, you want to show that the author, if he did more research, might find that his conclusion isn't a strong one.

TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 3: – WEAK EVIDENCE (4-6 SENTENCES)

4

- Identify another assumption or flaw in the author's reasoning and show how more evidence or better reasoning could undermine the argument.

TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 4 (OPTIONAL): – VAGUE LANGUAGE (4-6 SENTENCES)

5

- Use a transition phrase again, then attack the specific terminology the author utilizes in the argument. How many is “many”? Who exactly does he mean by “most”? Here you will be using the author’s own rhetorical construction against him. This is a “time valve” paragraph—that is, only write it if you have plenty of time to spare.

TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 5: – HOW TO STRENGTHEN (2-4 SENTENCES)

6

- Just because there are unsupported assumptions and flaws in the author's argument, it's still possible that the conclusion is defensible. Reinforce the idea that there might be SOME merit to the author's argument. Provide some ideas for evidence that, if the author could find it, could make the assumptions likely to be true and therefore support the conclusion.

TEMPLATE PARAGRAPH 6 : – CONCLUSION (1-2 SENTENCES)

7

- Although the conclusion is short, it is essential to make sure the reader knows that you understand that your job was to analyze the argument, not to fix it. Quickly restate your original thesis, that the argument has too many assumptions and flaws in reasoning to be acceptable. Point out that the author has more work to do.

TOP 4 TIPS FOR A STRONG GRE ARGUMENT ESSAY

- LOOK FOR FALSE GENERALIZATIONS, INADEQUATE EVIDENCE, AND MISLEADING SURVEYS OR STATISTICS.
- DISCUSS TWO OR THREE SPECIFIC ASSUMPTIONS THE AUTHOR MAKES.
- EMBRACE THE THIRD PERSON.
- MAKE STRONG, DECLARATIVE STATEMENTS.
 - Student #1: Global climate change appears to be a real and present threat that seems to have been scientifically proven. Action should be taken today in order to prevent any possible negative implications.
 - Student #2: Global climate change is a real and present threat that has been scientifically proven. Leaders must take action today in order to prevent future negative implications.

THE GRE ANALYZE AN ARGUMENT ESSAY: 6 TIPS FOR A HIGH SCORE

- 1) The argument is always **FLAWED!** It will never provide ample or consistent evidence and will always be too short to encompass the topic. They are trying to give you something to easily dissect.
- 2) What you choose is not as important as arguing it thoroughly. Don't overcomplicate your argument or pick a middle-of-the road argument that may be interpreted as irresolute.
- 3) Anticipate objections to your thesis and refute or synthesize them. As you build up the logic of your argument, take note of objections that occur to you and address them.
- 4) Be specific in your examples. The point is not to be scholarly but to bring specific evidence to bear. However, these examples must be relevant to the topic. Do not get lost on a tangent.
- 5) The GRE does not expect you to have prior knowledge of a topic to argue it well. What they want to see is rigorous thinking, not rigorous research.
- 6) Structure your essay clearly



THANK YOU

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