Evaluate Challenge Explanation 11.2.2

First, translate.

> *So sea turtles only nest at their birthplaces. When the hatch, they go swim away for like 15-30 years and only come back to their birthplace to nest. People think that it's the smell of the birthplace that makes the turtles return.*

OK, so these turtles somehow get back to their birthplace 15 to 30 years later, which is insanely impressive. People think they're triggered to navigate back by the smell of their birthplace, but there could be literally any other cause. We have no reason to believe it's necessarily the smell causing them to go back over any other Omitted Option:

What if they're magnetically drawn to their birthplace? What if there's a pheromone trail left by generations of sea turtles along the migration path? What if turtles with a destroyed sense of smell can still go back? We have no idea what's actually causing the sea turtle to return.

LOOPHOLE What if all the Omitted Options?

Now we see it's an Evaluate question, which is great. We just have to find an answer choice that references our Loophole, something that calls into question whether it's really the smell that makes the turtles return or something else.

Let's go find our Loophole in the answer choices:

A) *So how long turtles are expected to live.* **A** *doesn't affect whether the turtles are triggered by smell or something else. Lifespan does nothing for our conclusion. Not a powerful approach.*

B) *So what the maximum turtle migratory range is. Smell isn't necessarily linked to migratory range. The turtles could have a range of 100 miles or 10,000 miles, but smell could factor in either way.* **B** *does nothing for the conclusion; it's not a powerful option.*

C) *So whether many of the birthplace beaches have been destroyed by development. The turtles could still be triggered by smell regardless of whether their birthplaces have been destroyed by development. The smell hasn't necessarily been destroyed, even if the birthplace has been.* **C** *doesn't affect the conclusion, which means it's not a powerful answer.*

D) *So whether the turtles are outside the smell range of their birthplace right before they go back. If the turtles are outside of smell range when they start returning to their birthplace, the smell isn't triggering them to start the return journey.* **D** *is zeroing in on one of our Omitted Options, No Relationship. This makes* **D** *a powerful pop quiz for the conclusion.*

E) *So whether male and female turtles are both involved in nesting. Who cares whether both sexes are involved?* **E** *doesn't give us any insight into whether the smell is triggering the turtles or not. Both sexes could easily use smell or not use smell.* **E** *is irrelevant.*

D is the correct answer. It's the only answer that hits the conclusion at its most vulnerable point, the Omitted Options.