

## Method Challenge Explanation 18.2.5

First, translate.

*So self confidence is dangerous virtue because it often becomes the vice of arrogance, and everyone can see the danger of arrogance when they look. The 20th century would be so much more humane without the arrogant self confidence of Hitler and Stalin!*



Godwin's Law is the internet rule that any discussion, if it goes on long enough, will inevitably lead to something being inappropriately compared to Hitler. It only took 18 PrepTests for the LSAT to get there.

This stimulus is a personal fav because it proves that even the LSAT will fall to Godwin's Law. Yes, they are saying that self confidence is dangerous because it can lead to arrogance and Hitler and Stalin had "arrogant self confidence." But what about all the good things self confidence can bring? Just because Hitler and Stalin had self confidence and did bad things doesn't mean the trait itself is dangerous. Correlation, not causation, guys.

### LOOPHOLE

What if the arrogant self confidence wasn't actually causing Hitler and Stalin's bad actions?

Now we see it's a Method **EXCEPT** question, so we have to recap what's gone on in the argument. Basically, they linked self confidence and arrogance and then went into a super extreme example to show how bad that is. That's it.

Pretty casual recap, right? That's really all you need for Method. We're going to find four answers that happened in the stimulus and one answer that did not happen. We will use our **EXCEPT MARK** and check off four provable options and choose the one answer that isn't checked off.

- A)** *So using an extreme example to get an emotional response. Did this happen? Yes! The Hitler and Stalin example is extreme. Method checked off.*
- B)** *So using value-laden terms like vice. Did this happen? Yup, definitely used the word "vice" in the stimulus. Method checked off.*
- C)** *So illustrating how arrogance is dangerous. Did this happen? Yup, that's what the Hitler and Stalin example was doing. It was illustrating how dangerous arrogance is. Method checked off.*
- D)** *So appealing to authority to prove a claim. Did this happen? No, there was no appeal to authority in the stimulus. No authority is even present in the stimulus; Hitler and Stalin sure don't count. D didn't happen in the stimulus, so it's not provable.*
- E)** *So implying that Hitler's arrogance came from self confidence. Did this happen? Yeah, this is that assumed causal connection we talked about in the Loophole. Method checked off.*

**D** is the correct answer. Every other answer occurred in the stimulus and **D** did not, which makes it the correct answer to Method **EXCEPT**.