**34. The vice president of human resources at Climpson Industries sent the following recommendation to the company’s president. “In an effort to improve our employees’ productivity, we should implement electronic monitoring of employees’ The Internet use from their workstations. Employees who use The Internet from their workstations need to be identified and punished if we are to reduce the number of work hours spent on personal or recreational activities, such as shopping and playing games. By installing software to detect employees’ The Internet use on company computers, we can prevent employees from wasting time, foster a better work ethic at Climpson, and improve our overall profits.”**

**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.**

The vice president of human sources at Climpson Industries advises that monitoring The Internet use could essentially improve the work efficiency of their employees, immensely reducing the time spent on shopping and playing games. This argument seems potent in some cases; however, it needs to be explained from the implication as well as from stated or unstated assumptions to prove warranted for the conclusion.

First and foremost, the vice president presumes that through inspecting the usage of the Internet, their employees are more likely to give attention to their work rather than recreational activities, thus increasing the productivity. This statement is primarily based on the fact that the employees will utilize the time previously wasted on the improper use of the Internet to augment the profit margin made for the company. It could be true, and if it is, the method suggested by the vice president can have significant efficacy. Nonetheless, the employees who are not willing to work will instead spend time playing their smartphones, which cannot be monitored by such measure. Hence, the work efficiency cannot be advanced unless every movement of the employees is supervised as well.

Moreover, the assumption indicates that the employees tend to erroneously use the Internet unless there is a software intensely monitoring their usage. Nevertheless, some employees effectively search for instrumental information related to their assigned tasks on the Internet from their workstations. If such measure is implemented as the statement suggests, they might feel constrained when using the Internet and the detecting system, therefore, exerts an adverse effect on their work performance. Even though the software could inhibit some employees from playing games on the Internet, the accuracy of judging whether the employees reasonably use the Internet deserves doubting. To guarantee such precision, the company ought to appropriate a great deal of money from their budget, deriving a further question of whether or not the resulting profits can far outweigh the expenditure on installing the software.

Lastly, the assumption implies that more time the employees commit to their work, more productively they perform. It might be applied to some fields, such as the employees manipulating the machines at the assembly line or equipment engineers who repeatedly check the operation of equipment. However, some people working in particular field are required to be creative and whimsical. In other words, for those people, including UI designers or architects, they have to take a break during work and even meditate so as to become more imaginative. If it is the case, the vice president's recommendation is certainly worth dubious.

True, it might not appear unreasonable for the vice president to advise installing a monitor system in order to improve their employees’ work efficiency. Yet, taking into account the uncertain assumptions listed above, the statement appears rife with holes and certainly does not provide enough assumptions to prove it warranted.

**64. Collectors prize the ancient life-size clay statues of human figures made on Kali Island but have long wondered how Kalinese artists were able to depict bodies with such realistic precision. Since archaeologists have recently discovered molds of human heads and hands on Kali, we can now conclude that the ancient Kalinese artists used molds of actual bodies, not sculpting tools and techniques, to create these statues. This discovery explains why Kalinese miniature statues were abstract and entirely different in style: molds could be used only for life-size sculptures. It also explains why few ancient Kalinese sculpting tools have been found. In light of this discovery, collectors predict that the life-size sculptures will decrease in value while the miniatures increase in value.**

**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.**

The argument suggests that in light of the discovery of molds of human heads and hand, the Kalinese artists most likely used them to create the life-size clay statues of human figures rather than sculpting tools and techniques, further explaining why the Kalinese miniature statues were different in style as well as why the Kalinese sculpting tools barely have been uncovered. Besides, the collectors, based on above suggestion, anticipate/forecast that the worth of life-size sculptures will decrease while the miniatures tend to increase in value. However, such argument has left plenty of questions unanswered for such prediction.

The first question we ought to know is whether the discovery is complete enough to deduce the conclusion that the life-size statues were primarily made by molds. We cannot hastily summarize that the archaeologists have fully explored the Kali Island. In other words, it might be true that there are still unknown ancient cites, where abundant evidence of sculpting tools exists, not having been unearthed. If it is known to be the case, the author’s suggestion concerning the method for creating the life-size statues is obviously erroneous. Hence, without the answer to the question as to whether or not the Kali Island as a whole has been utterly explored, the author’s position in regard to the production of life-size statues cannot hold up.

Even though the previous question has been solved and the comprehensive exploration of the island has been conducted, we still should not rule out the possibility that the evidence of sculpting tools and techniques has overall been disintegrated. That is, suppose the sculpting tools is made of the materials that decay rapidly in a brief span of time, the discovery of such tools is scarcely feasible. Additionally, the tools can also be applied to other circumstances, such as digging the canal underground for irrigation in the ancient period, so that the tools have been thoroughly corroded due to intense usage. Moreover, it could be veracious that the molds had few uses, implying that they are more likely to be left for the archaeologist to disclose. Therefore, lacking the accurate answer to the question about the persistence of the molds compared to that of the sculpting tools, we ought not arbitrarily maintain that Kalinese rarely use the sculpting tools to produce the life-size statues.

In sum, before quickly drawing the conclusion that Kalinese likely used the human-size molds to create the statues, there are still numerous questions left unanswered. Thus, I will be more convinced only if questions mentioned previously are answered by the author, such as whether the archaeologists have entirely explored the Kali Island and whether the materials composing the molds and the sculpting tools broke down at similar rate.

**20. The following is a memorandum from the business manager of a television station. “Over the past year, our late-night news program has devoted increased time to national news and less time to weather and local news. During this time period, most of the complaints received from viewers were concerned with our station’s coverage of weather and local news. In addition, local businesses that used to advertise during our late-night news program have just canceled their advertising contracts with us. Therefore, in order to attract more viewers to the program and to avoid losing a further advertising revenues, we should restore the time devoted to weather and local news to its former level.”**

**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.**

Upon first glance, it might appear rational to concur with the recommendation proposed by the business manager of the television station, resting on the information regarding the complaints received from viewers and losing advertising contracts with the local businesses. For further examination, however, it becomes apparent that quite amount of extra evidence is indispensable to either weaker or strengthen the argument.

First and foremost, the conclusion is drawn according to the fact that after changing the policy in late-night news program, most of the complaints are pertinent to insufficient coverage of weather and local news. Nevertheless, the memorandum has not mentioned the exact number of complaints. That is to say, if the total complaints are only five and four of them are concerned with the coverage of news, it is glaring that the collected complaints are not enough to deduce the conclusion. Precisely, it might be true that the total number of complaints have decreased from one hundred to currently five: doesn’t it imply that the viewers essentially are satisfied with the new policy adopted by the television station? Thus, without providing evidence of accurate number of the complaints, the argument is untenable.

Even though the total number of complaints have risen, further testifying to the widespread dissatisfaction/discontent with the coverage of news during late-night news, we still cannot hastily put the recommendation from the business manager into practice. The surge in number of complaints indeed indicates more attention as opposed to losing viewers. If so, the advice on restoring the time devoted to weather and local news to former lever is imprudent; otherwise, the manager ought to make effort to improve the quality of national news as well as add some weather and local news back to qualified extent so as to assuage the complaints.

Lastly, the manager improperly attributes the termination of the contract to the time devoted to kinds of news. We should inspect more discreetly/meticulously the financial context of the local businesses they had signed contract with. Perhaps their marketing strategy changed in order to boost their profit margin, planning to reduce the expenditure on advertisement. To put it differently, what those businesses take account of when extracting the investment in advertising is managerial premise rather than disinclination toward different types of news. Accordingly, lacking understanding of the context of those companies, the manager should not conclude that reviving the weather and local news could assist in earning the advertisement revenues back.

Certainly, it is not unreasonable to propose the recommendation in the statement based on the known data. The complaints and loss of advertising income, nonetheless, is unlikely to justify the proposal unless the additional information is given. There are, for instance, at least two pieces of information needing to be added: the precise number of complaints and the financial context of the local businesses the television station has cooperated with.

**41. The following appeared in a health newsletter. “A ten-year nationwide study of the effectiveness of wearing a helmet while bicycling indicates that ten years ago, approximately 35 percent of all bicyclists reported wearing helmets, whereas today that number is nearly 80 percent. Another study, however, suggests that during the same ten-year period, the number of bicycle-related accidents has increased 200 percent. These results demonstrate that bicyclists feel safer because they are wearing helmets, and they take more risks as a result. Thus, to reduce the number of serious injuries from bicycle accidents, the government should concentrate more on educating people about bicycle safety and less on encouraging or requiring bicyclists to wear helmets.”**

**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.**

The author maintains that according to the study that demonstrates rise in the bicyclists wearing the helmets over the past decade, from 35 percent to 80 percent, and another study, which is conducted at the same period, showing the surprising results of increase in bicycle-related accidents, the government ought to attach importance to educating bicyclists as opposed to advocating the significance of wearing helmets. However, this argument needs to be explained from the implications as well as from stated or unstated assumptions to prove warranted for the conclusion.

First and foremost, this conclusion is mainly based on a premise that the number of bicyclists taking part in the statistical survey ten years ago is approximately tantamount to that of today. Resting on such assumption, it might seem defensible to infer that more people wearing helmets with a sense of safety conversely induces more accidents. Nevertheless, if the total number of bicyclists included in the study ten years ago is much more than that in the recent study, the deduction that more people nowadays wear helmets is erroneous. That is, 35 percent of 100 bicyclists means 35 people wore the helmets when bicycling before, whereas 80 percent of 10 bicyclists implies merely 8 people recently wear such protective equipment.

Even though the number of people wearing the helmets did increase, the conclusion that the bicycle-related accidents are more serious now is not compelling. Specifically, the underlying assumption for the conclusion is that the road condition ten years ago is similar to contemporary one. Nonetheless, it might be true that the road condition has deteriorated after hard and continual usage, which essentially poses a grave threat to modern bicyclists. In other words, the increasing bicycle-related accidents is falsely attributed to the unawareness of the bicyclists, and the critical reason behind such increase is degradation of the road condition.

Last but not least, the argument assumes that the reported accidents mostly involve bicyclists being severely injured, in turn contends that the helmets were futile to preventing the bicyclists from risks. However, the main purpose of wearing helmets is to mitigate the injuries for the bicyclists when crashing rather than completely avoid crashing. To put it differently, if the government hastily adopt the recommendation suggested by the author, the bicyclists are more susceptible to mortal accidents. On the contrary, if bicyclists unfortunately encounter an inevitable accident with helmets worn, they will only have a small abrasion and even have no need to be sent to the hospital.

In sum, although the rise in accidents appears to rationalize the proposal concerning discouraging the enforcement of wearing helmets, we still cannot entirely rebut the deriving benefits. Therefore, the author’s statement is rife with holes and it certainly does not provide enough assumptions to prove itself warranted.

**80. The following is taken from a memo from the advertising director of the Super Screen Movie Production Company. “According to a recent report from our marketing department, during the past year, fewer people attended Super Screen-produced movies than in any other year. And yet the percentage of positive reviews by movie reviewers about specific Super Screen movies actually increased during the past year. Clearly, the contents of these reviews are not reaching enough of our prospective viewers. Thus, the problem lies not with the quality of our movies but with the public’s lack of awareness that movies of good quality are available. Super Screen should therefore allocate a greater share of its budget next year to reaching the public through advertising.”**

**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. Notes: All responses are reproduced exactly as written, including errors, misspellings, etc., if any.**

The advertising director of Super Screen Movie Production Company advises that the company should appropriate a great deal of money from their annual budget for advertising. This suggestion mainly rests on the report on a decline in attendance rates last year as well as a surge in positive movie reviews. However, this argument apparently has left numerous questions unanswered for the recommendation.

First and foremost, to evaluate the recommendation, we first wonder whether the movie reviews are representative of the quality of movies. The director points out that the promising reviews have increased in terms of its percentage. Yet, something is missing: the total number of the movie reviews being received. Perhaps, the total number of movie reviews during the past year was only about ten, which could be attributable to less attendees, eight of which favored the movie contents. Meanwhile, except for last year, there were approximately 100 movie reviews on average in last decade, 60 of which were supportive of the movies. Indeed, the percentage of positive movie reviews had risen from 60 percent to 80 percent, but it is glaring that fewer samples during the past year failed to represent the public’s opinions as a whole. It might be true that only those who were intrigued by the Super Screen-produced movies will attend the movies and have a chance to offer feedback. Therefore, without mentioning the specific number of the movie reviews, we cannot deduce that the viewers are mostly satisfied with the quality of movies.

Furthermore, we also need to know the information on the context in which movies have been changed over the past years. The director maintains that according to more positive movie reviews but less audiences, the main problem possibly lies with the public’s unawareness of movies’ favorable quality. Nonetheless, the director fails to take into account other factors. To be more specific, the reason accounting for the public’s unwillingness to go to those movies could be that the price of the movie ticket had immensely increased. As a result, the prohibitive price might deter plebs from seeing movies merely for pleasure. Besides, the element of the movie had played a significant role in its publicity. It might be that those movies mostly involve the content that is not accessible to the general public but only to laymen. For instance, some of those movies primarily describe the lives of certain distinguished artists and delineate them from a unique viewpoint, thus enticing contemporary artists to be immersed in the movies and in turn offer commonly positive feedback. However, these movies obviously seem tedious for ordinary people who pursue action or romantic movies, then discouraging them from attending and thus contributing to less adverse reviews.

In sum, before adopting the proposition, there are still a variety of questions left unanswered. Consequently, I will be more convinced if questions listed above are addressed by the director, such as the accurate number of the movie reviews as well as the context in which those films had been produced.