**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 deduct 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 sustainability 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 an 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, the recommendation from the business manager of television might seem justifiable, resting on the statistical data regarding complaints received from viewers and losing business contract with the local business for advertising. For further examination, however, quite amount of extra evidence is indispensable to either weaker or strengthen the argument.

First and foremost, the conclusion is drawn according to the degree to which the complaints pertinent to the coverage of weather and local news have been received after changing the policy in the news. Nevertheless, the memorandum has not mentioned the exact number of complaints. That is to say, if the total complaints are about five and four of them are concerned with the coverage of news, it is glaring that the complaints are not enough to deduct the conclusion. Precisely, it might be true that the total 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 inclined, further confirming the viewers’ dissatisfaction with the coverage of weather and local new in late-night news, we still cannot hastily put the recommendation from the business manager into practice. The increase in number of complaints indeed indicates more attention as opposed to losing viewers. If so, the advice to restore 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 pacify the complaints.

Lastly, the manager falsely attributes the losing contract to the time devoted to kinds of news. We should examine more carefully the financial context for the local businesses they have signed contract with. Maybe their marketing strategy has changed in order to boost their profit margin and choose to eliminate the expenditure of advertisement. Accordingly, without offering the context of those companies, the manager should not conclude that reviving the weather and local news could assist in earning the advertisement revenue back.

Certainly, it is not unreasonable to propose the recommendation above based on the known data. We, nonetheless, should not rashly change news policy unless the additional information is given, such as the precise number of complaints and the financial context of the local businesses they cooperate with.