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GRE 官方写作题库 Argument 75

The following appeared in a letter to the editor of a Batavia newspaper:

"The department of agriculture in Batavia reports that the number of dairy farms throughout the country is now 25 percent greater than it was 10 years ago. During this same time period, however, the price of milk at the local Excello Food Market has increased from \$1.50 to over \$3.00 per gallon. To prevent farmers from continuing to receive excessive profits on an apparently increased supply of milk, the Batavia government should begin to regulate retail milk prices. Such regulation is necessary to ensure both lower prices and an adequate supply of milk for consumers."

满分范文赏析

This editorial recommends that Batavia's government regulate milk prices to reduce supplier profits and guarantee an adequate supply of milk for consumption. To support these assertions the author cites the fact that over the past ten years the number of dairy farms in Batavia has increased by 25% while at Excello Food Market milk prices have doubled. The argument is nonsensical. Let's explore.

【此段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 开头段结构,即:C – E - F 的开头结构,首句概括原文的 C(Conclusion)。接下来的一句话概括了原文为了支持他的结论所引用的 E(Evidence)。最后尾句中给出开头段到正文段的过渡句,指出原文在逻辑上存在 F(Flaw)。

【此段功能】

本段作为 Argument 开头段,具体功能就在发起攻击。首先,概括原文的结论:建议 Batavia (简称 B)政府限制牛奶价格并保证牛奶的充足供应。接下来分别列举了原文为了支持这个结论引用的证据:过去 10 年 B 地区 dairy farm 数量增长 25%,Excello Food Market(简称 EFM) 牛奶价格翻倍,论据的归纳用于铺垫出正文段的具体攻击。最后点出原文存在逻辑错误,引出后面的分析。



First of all, the speaker offer's only Excello's milk prices, a local store, and hopes an audience to accept that the price, which doubled, reflects prices throughout Batavia. Basic laws of economics indicate that when supply goes up, prices fall. It is highly probably that Excello's prices are a unique peculiarity and that the high price can be attributed to a local issue: transport, convenience, and so on. To the extent that Excello's milk prices are correlated with national averages, the speaker makes no effort to mention.

【此段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 正文段结构,即:概括第一个逻辑错误的错误类型和原文犯错位置,接下来给出合理的理由和他因来反驳原文。

【此段功能】

本段作为正文第一段,攻击文章犯的主要逻辑错误:调查类错误(以偏概全)。作者认为 "EFM 牛奶价格 double"并不能反映 B 地区牛奶价格的整体情况。进一步,作者提出引起 B 地区牛奶价格 double 的 local issue 来反驳原文中的观点,例如 transport, convience 等。原文更没有提出 EMF 价格和 national average 的关系。

In the second place, for the sake of argument, let us assume that Excello's milk prices do reflect those in Batavia. The speaker claims that milk prices are particularly "excessive" and assumes that milk-sale profits are going to milk producers. This has not been proven to be the case. Returning to basic laws of economics, if supply goes up profits go down. There is strong evidence that there are alternative causes for the rise in price and there is a great possibility that the producers of milk are not the beneficiaries of profit.

【此段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 正文段结构,即:概括第二个逻辑错误的错误类型和原文犯错位置,接下来给出合理的理由和他因来反驳原文。

【此段功能】

本段作为正文第二段,攻击文章犯的主要逻辑错误:错误因果。作者认为原文中没有证据说明牛奶价格过度上涨以及牛奶销售利润都给了 producer。进一步,作者引用了经济学定律:



supply 增长会导致 profit 下降。牛奶价格的上涨可能是 alternative cause 引起且 producer 不一定是获利者。

In the third place, the author assumes that an increase in milk prices results in increased profits. It is reasonable to conclude that while prices have gone up, profits have actually remained the same and the price itself is the result of increase production cost. Thus the strength of the author's claim of excessive milk-sale profits is totally unfounded.

【此段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 正文段结构,即:概括第三个逻辑错误的错误类型和原文犯错位置,接下来给出合理的理由和他因来反驳原文。

【此段功能】

本段作为正文第三段,攻击文章犯的主要逻辑错误:profit 类。作者认为牛奶价格上涨不一定导致 profit 的增长。进一步,作者提出 cost 可能随着 price 上涨而上涨,使得 profit 没有发生变化。

In the fourth place, based on the fact that the number of dairy farms has increased, the author infers that the supply of milk has also increased. However, this is not necessarily the case. It is possible that dairy farm production has shifted away from milk to other dairy products, and that the supply of milk has actually declined over this time period. This scenario would make far more sense and would certainly find itself in accord with the basic laws of economics.

【此段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 正文段结构,即:概括第四个逻辑错误的错误类型和原文犯错位置,接下来给出合理的理由和他因来反驳原文。

【此段功能】

本段作为正文第四段,攻击文章犯的主要逻辑错误:错误因果。作者认为原文中 "dairy farm 的增加推出 milk supply 的增加"这一论断是有误的。进一步,作者提出 diary farm 可能从生产牛奶过渡到生产其他乳制品。



Finally, in asserting that price regulation would help ensure an adequate supply of milk the author overlooks the possibility that milk producers would respond to the regulation by producing less milk or even stop producing milk altogether, especially because the profit motivator is absent from the process.

【此段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 正文段结构,即:概括第五个逻辑错误的错误类型和原文犯错位置,接下来给出合理的理由和他因来反驳原文。

【此段功能】

本段作为正文第五段,攻击文章犯的主要逻辑错误:错误因果。作者认为,price regulation不一定能达到目的。可能在利益的驱使下,producer 会通过减少生产或者停止生产牛奶来抵制 price regulation.

In conclusion, the recommendation for regulation of milk prices is a seriously bad one and the evidence to support is equally as poor. To convince an audience that the proposed regulation is needed to ensure a reasonably priced milk supply, the author must provide clear statistical evidence that Excello's milk prices reflect nationwide milk prices and that profits from milk sales are in fact excessive. To better evaluate the recommendation, the audience would need to agree with socialist political doctrine and ignore the most commonly accepted laws of economics on the planet earth. The recommendation should be ignored

【此段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 结尾段结构 , 即:C – S 的结尾结构 , 首先再次重申原文的站不住脚的 Conclusion , 接下来给出给合理建议 Suggestion。

【此段功能】

本段作为 Argument 结尾段,具体功能就总结归纳+建议措施,首先再次重申原文关于限制牛奶价格的观点不合理。接下来作者给出使文章更有说服力的合理化建议:一要说明 EFM 牛奶价格上涨反映了 nationwide 的情况并且牛奶 profit 过高;二要说明在这种情况下应该采用 social political doctrine 而不是 law of economics。结尾段的两个条建议非常规整的隐射前面的两个主要错误,前后呼应,文章有力结尾,浑然一体。



满分因素剖析

【语言表达】

1. This editorial recommends that.... (标志性的 GRE argument 开头段首句,提出原文中的 conclusion)To support these assertions the author cites the fact that (提出原文中为了支持结论所引用的 evidence)The argument is nonsensical. Let's explore.(标志性的 GRE argument 开头段尾句,提出原文存在逻辑上的 Flaw,引出下文)

In the fourth place, based on the fact that..., the author infers that However, this is not necessarily the case. It is possible that..., and that This scenario would make far more sense and would certainly find itself in accord with the basic laws of economics.

标志性的因果类错误攻击体系

3. In the third place, the author assumes that an increase in milk prices results in increased profits. (标志性的 GRE argument 论证段开头,提出原文中存在"profit"类错误)It is reasonable to conclude that while prices have gone up, profits have actually remained the same and the price itself is the result of increase production cost. (提出 cost 有大于 revenue 的可能,导致 profit 不变)Thus the strength of the author's claim of excessive milk-sale profits is totally unfounded.

【逻辑结构】

本文是非常严谨的开头段-正文段 1-正文段 2--正文段 3-正文段 5-结尾段的七段论逻辑体系。 开头段按照 C-E-F 的逻辑结构,顺利引出后文的分析。论证段中,从提出错误,到分析错误, 到给出可能性,最后总结错误,层次清晰,衔接自然。结尾段总结全文,重申错误,给出合 理化建议。这样一篇文章从开头到结尾逻辑严谨,内容清晰,圆满的完成了论证的作用。

第二个正文段的开头值得大家借鉴

In the second place, for the sake of argument, let us assume that Excello's milk prices do reflect those in Batavia.

作者在这一段用到了,让步结构,即先假设前一个论断是正确的,在这一基础上提出文章的 其他错误。这样使得论证段与论证段之间内容关联性更加紧密。





