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GRE 官方写作题库 Argument 13

In an attempt to improve highway safety, Prunty County last year lowered its speed limit from 55 to 45 miles per hour on all county highways. But this effort has failed: the number of accidents has not decreased, and, based on reports by the highway patrol, many drivers are exceeding the speed limit. Prunty County should instead undertake the same kind of road improvement project that Butler County completed five years ago: increasing lane widths, resurfacing rough highways, and improving visibility at dangerous intersections. Today, major Butler County roads still have a 55 mph speed limit, yet there were 25 percent fewer reported accidents in Butler County this past year than there were five years ago.

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.

【满分范文赏析】

This author argues that a recent reduction in Prunty County's speed limit on its major roads (55 to 45 miles per hour miles per hour) has proven ineffective and that the county should rescind the speed limit change. Instead, urges the author, the city should focus on infrastructure improvement, much like Butler County, wherein drivers experienced a 25% reduction in accidents while enjoying speeds of up to 55 miles per hour. After a review of the assumptions therein, the integrity of the argument comes into question.

【本段结构】

本文采用了标准的 Argument 开头段结构,即 C—A—F 的开头结构。本段首先概括原文的 Conclusion,之后简要提及原文为支持其结论所引用的一系列 Assumption 及细节,最后给出 开头段到正文段的过渡句,指出原文的 Flaw,即这些 Assumption 无法让原文逻辑上没有问题。

【本段功能】

作为 Argument 开头段,本段具体功能就在于发起攻击并概括原文的结论,即 Prunty 地区应当采取和 Butler 地区相同的道路设施改善计划。本段接下来提到了原文中为支持之前的 Conclusion 所提供的证据,即在 Prunty 地区采取的限速政策没效果,以及在 Butler 地区采取的道路设施改善计划减少了事故。文章提及这些信息,为是在正文段中对这些 Assumption 即



将进行的具体攻击做铺垫。

Firstly, only recently has the speed limit in Pruntly County been reduced and only for major roads. Perhaps not enough time has passed to determine the change's effectiveness. Further, no indication of results from a study on the roadways with a speed limit change has been provided. Lacking such a link between the conclusions that Prunty's road safety effort initiative has failed is invalidated.

【本段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 正文段结构,即先是提及原文的第一个逻辑错误,之后分析该逻辑错误的原因,接下来,进一步分析这样的错误为什么让原文的 Conclusion 不成立。

【本段功能】

作为正文第一段,本段攻击原文所犯的第一个重要逻辑错误——样本类错误。原文提到在采取限制速度一年后,Pruntly 地区的事故发生率没有下降。但是,这些样本并不一定有说服力,毕竟,短短的一年时间并不能让人们看到这个限速政策的实际效果。所以,原文当中的这个观点是站不住脚的。

Secondly, the argument assumes that all other factors affecting highway accident rates have remained unchanged since the county lowered its speed limit. However, the author fails to provide evidence to support this assumption. It is entirely possible that the lower speed limit does in fact serve to reduce the accident rate, while some other factor, such as unseasonably poor weather, reduced law enforcement measures, or even an influx of teenage drivers to the area, has served to increase the accident rate. Without considering and ruling out these and other factors that might have served to increase the accident rate since the speed limit was lowered, the author cannot justifiably conclude that this safety effort has failed.

【本段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 正文段结构,即先是提及原文的第二个逻辑错误,之后分析该逻辑错误的原因,接下来,进一步分析这样的错误为什么让原文的 Conclusion 不成立。

【本段功能】

作为正文第二段,本段攻击原文所犯的第二个重要逻辑错误——因果类错误。原文提到在采



取限制速度后, Pruntly 地区的事故发生率没有下降。但是,原文忽视了可能造成事故的其它因素。而相比之下,限速政策实际上有助于避免交通事故的发生。在没有考虑到这些相关因素的情况下,原文并不能证明这个观点是合理的。

Thirdly, in the argument, the author implies that the higher speed limit in Butler County has not served to increase the incidence of road accidents in that county. It is entirely possible that the 55-mph speed limit actually serves to increase the accident rate on Butler's highways, but that others factors, such as stricter law enforcement measures or improved driver education, have served to decrease the accident rate to a greater extent. Without considering and ruling out these and other factors which might have served to decrease the accident rate in Butler County, the author cannot confidently recommend that Prunty County emulate Butler County's approach to the problem.

【本段结构】

本段采用了标准的 Argument 正文段结构,即先是提及原文的第三个逻辑错误,之后分析该逻辑错误的原因,接下来,进一步分析这样的错误为什么让原文的 Conclusion 不成立。

【本段功能】

作为正文第三段,本段攻击原文所犯的第三个重要逻辑错误——因果类错误。原文提到在 Butler 地区没有采取限速政策并不会给当地的交通事故带来负面的影响。但事实上,这样的 因果关系可能被颠倒了。相比之下,如果采取了限速,Butler 地区可能会更安全。在没有考虑到这些相关因素的情况下,原文当中的这个观点是不合逻辑的。

In conclusion, to strengthen the argument, the author must better assess the impact of the new speed limit on road safety, with more statistical information about the accident rate on Prunty's major roads, collected over a longer time period. Additionally, the author must account for all other factors that might influence the accident rate on roads in both counties

【本段结构】

本段采用的 Argument 结尾段结构是单纯的 Suggestion 结构。即本段给出了可以增强原文说服力的合理建议 Suggestion,包括原文作者需要进一步提供的证据和信息等。



【本段功能】

本段作为 Argument 结尾段,具体功能为对原文当中的逻辑问题提出建议。段落给出合理的建议包括:作者必须通过更多的统计信息,更好地评估限速政策和道路安全的关系,而且这些信息是在长期观察下得来的结果;此外,作者必须考虑到能对交通事故产生影响的其它相关因素。不难发现,结尾段总结提出的建议与正文各段中依次攻击的错误遥相呼应,即分别对应了样本类错误和因果类错误,这使全篇文章显得浑然一体。

【满分要素剖析】

【语言表达】

本文的语言使用规范、清晰,词汇也用得准确地道,并使用多变的句式让考官读起来津津有味,这些都是 GRE 写作官方的语言要求。同时,文章的结构型语言和内容型语言相得益彰,结构是骨架,内容是血肉,二者完美结合。

- This author argues that...(标志性的 Argument 开头段引出原文结论的语言表达形式。)Instead, urges the author... After a review of the assumptions therein, the integrity of the argument comes into question.(标志性的指出文章错误的语言表达。整体开头段是标准的 C—A—F 的语言和逻辑模版体系。)
- 2) Firstly, only recently... Perhaps not enough time has passed to determine... Lacking such a link between the conclusions that... is invalidated. (标志性的时间过短导致样本类错误的语言和逻辑模版体系。)
- 3) Secondly, the argument assumes that... However, the author fails to provide evidence to support this assumption. It is entirely possible that... while some other factor, such as... Without considering and ruling out these and other factors that... the author cannot justifiably conclude that this safety effort has failed. (标志性的包含他因的因果类错误的语言和逻辑模版体系。)
- 4) Thirdly, in the argument, the author implies that... It is entirely possible that... but that others factors... Without considering and ruling out these and other factors which might have



served to... the author cannot confidently recommend that... (标志性的包含他因的因果类错误的语言和逻辑模版体系。)

5) In conclusion, to strengthen the argument, the author must better assess... Additionally, the author must account for all other factors that... collected over a longer time period... with more statistical information about... (标志性的 Argument 结尾段 Suggestion 体系的语言和逻辑模版体系。)

【逻辑结构】

本文的写作体现出了非常严谨的开头段一正文段 1、2、3一结尾段的逻辑体系:

(开头段) This author argues that...

(正文段 1)Firstly, only recently...

(正文段 2) Secondly, the argument assumes that... However...

(正文段 3) Thirdly, in the argument, the author implies that...

(结尾段) In conclusion, to strengthen the argument, the author must... Additionally, the author must account for...

特别注意的是,本文的第二段攻击的是样本类错误,而第三段和第四段攻击的都是原文当中的因果类逻辑错误。这样的写法,能够清晰的体现这篇文章对于逻辑错误的攻击顺序是非常清晰的:先攻击样本类错误,接着攻击因果类错误,并对原文中的因果类错误进行了拆分,即分别分析限速政策对 Prunty 和 Butler 地区交通事故的不同影响作用。



