

**The following appeared in a memo from the director of student housing at Buckingham College.**

“To serve the housing needs of our students, Buckingham College should build a number of new dormitories. Buckingham’s enrollment is growing and, based on current trends, will double over the next 50 years, thus making existing dormitory space inadequate. Moreover, the average rent for an apartment in our town has risen in recent years. Consequently, students will find it increasingly difficult to afford off-campus housing. Finally, attractive new dormitories would make prospective students more likely to enroll at Buckingham.”

*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.*

*Write a response in which you discuss **one or more alternative explanations** that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.*

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The writer of the argument recommends that Buckingham College establish more dormitories to be able to meet their future college-related needs. However, this recommendation cannot be accepted as it is because it is based on a number of premises **for the support of which there is not enough evidence**.

First of all, the writer contends because, Buckingham’s enrollment is growing now, it will double over the next 50 years. **However, there is no evidence in the argument to show what** the present enrollment growth rate is. Maybe this growth rate is so negligible that it would end in a doubling of the enrollments over the next 50 years. Even if it is assumed that the growth rate is fast enough to make enrollments double over the next 50 years, **there is no evidence to prove that** the same growth rate will remain as it is in the coming years. Maybe, the building of so many factories and a concomitant demand for workforce would cause many people to enter the job market immediately after they finish their high school.

The writer of the argument recommends that Buckingham College establish more dormitories to be able to meet their future college-related needs. However, this recommendation cannot be accepted as it is because it is based on a number of premises **that can be accounted for in other ways as well**.

First of all, the writer contends because, Buckingham’s enrollment is growing now, it will double over the next 50 years. **However, this scenario can be explained in other ways**. Maybe the present enrollment growth rate is so negligible that it would end in a doubling of the enrollments over the next 50 years. Even if it is assumed that the growth rate is fast enough to make enrollments double over the next 50 years, **the future trends can be explained in other ways as well**. For example, maybe, the same growth rate will not remain as it is in the coming years; for example, the building of so many factories and a concomitant demand for workforce would cause many people to enter the job market immediately after they finish their high school.