

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 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.

*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.*

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 some vital questions are to be answered**.

First of all, the writer contends because, Buckingham’s enrollment is growing now, it will double over the next 50 years. **However, the question is 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, **we need to know whether** 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.

HOMEWORK

Two years ago, radio station WCQP in Rockville decided to increase the number of call-in advice programs that it broadcast; since that time, its share of the radio audience in the Rockville listening area has increased significantly. Given WCQP’s recent success with call-in advice programming, and citing a nationwide survey indicating that many radio listeners are quite interested in such programs, the station manager of KICK in Medway recommends that KICK include more call-in advice programs in an attempt to gain a larger audience share in its listening area.

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.