

## Analyzing Assumptions

**Exercise One:** Identify the hidden assumptions in the following statements:

Statements	Hidden Assumptions
1. "It is certainly worth the money. It is nearly 100 years old."	
2. "Football causes injuries, and is therefore not a sport we should encourage."	
3. "Their relationship will never work. She is 15 years older than him."	
4. "There is nothing wrong with using your cell phone in class. Other students do it all the time."	
5. "His sister is a musician. She obviously has no money."	
6. "Why did you expect him to be honest? He is a politician."	
7. "You should be able to say the word 'hell.' I mean, it's in the Bible."	
8. "Mike listens to country music. He is obviously from a small town."	

**Exercise Two:**

Speaking from developments in my own family, there are way too many young students out there whose focus centers on partying, dress competition, music, and souped-up cars. Goal-setting and accomplishment in their studies as they prepare themselves for what is a highly competitive world do not figure too prominently in their day-to-day lives

- A. Write one sentence that states the writer's main claim.

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- B. Identify at least **four assumptions** behind the writer's argument (fill in the table). Use these guiding questions:

1. What is the writer taking for granted?
2. What values does the writer assume are important?
3. What connections (cause-effect) are assumed but not proven?

Statements from the text	Hidden assumptions
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- C. Discuss the writer's argument by answering the following questions:

- Are these assumptions reasonable?
- Do you agree or disagree with the writer?
- Can students balance social life and academic success?
- What evidence would strengthen this argument?

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