

Analyzing Assumptions

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

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

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.

.....

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
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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?

.....

