1:

In the lecture, the professor is skeptical about the idea of the reading passage that Peary did in fact reach the North Pole. The professor, however, argues that here is no solid evidence that Robert Peary reached the North Pole.

First in the reading passage, it is pointed out that the committee of the National Geographic Society guarantees this trip by thorough investigation. On the contrary, the professor maintains that committee is not completely objective, for this committee was composed of Peary's close friends who had contributed large sums of money to fund Peary's trip. Moreover, this investigation only lasting two day was inaccurate. Therefore, this argument cannot prove Robert reached the North Pole.

Second, the professor then challenges the reading’s idea that Tom Avery, another explorer, spent less than 37 days on the North Pole expedition, which proves the possibility of Robert’s trip. The professor suggests that Tom’s trip is different from Robert’s. Avery carried much less weight than Peary did. Moreover, Avery encountered highly favorable weather conditions, unlike Peary, who traveled in very unfavorable conditions. Thus Tom can travel in a high speed than Robert did. That’s why it is impossible for Robert to finish his expedition in 37 days.

Finally, the professor addresses that the surf’s position from the photographs taken by Robert are so faint that shadows of sun in the photos cannot be used to calculate the position with a precious consequence. However, according to the reading passage, the photographs could prove that Robert indeed stayed in the North Pole at that day. Therefore, the photo argument is unconvincing.

2:

Nowadays, the importance of education is becoming higher and higher. Many people, if not most, are strong believers in the statement that parents today pay more attention to their children's education than parents in the past. From my standpoint, I totally agree with this statement with the following reasons.

First and foremost, It becomes rather apparent that parents today tend to have fewer kids, so their kids get more attention. That is to say, when have fewer kids, parents can spend more attention on them, including their education. For example, in the old days, one family may have five or more children. Parents have no time to spend on each one. As a result, none of them receive full care from their parents. For example, when my father is young, he had many sisters and brothers. And my grandparents had to divide their attentions into many parts. They have no time to concern everything of their children’s. So, they never paid attention on children’s learning and education. Therefore, parents today are more focused on their kids.

Secondly, there are good reasons to suggest that there are more educational resources than in the past. To be more specific, if parent wants their children to be more competitive, they need to offer their children more educational resources. For example, I have been learning English for over ten years since my parents considered that English is a world language so it will be a useful skill in my future life. They believed that this skill can offer me more opportunities in the future. Accordingly, keen for more competition forces parents to provide more for their children.

Finally, it is significantly important to point out that with the technology development, the working styles are changing now. That is to say, parents have more time to accompany their children. More and more people nowadays choose to work remotely. I will take my uncle as an example. He is a game developer, he spend most of his time sitting in front of his computer to do the design. He uploads his work through the internet instead of bringing it into the office. This working style makes him work at home. As a result, he has more time to take care of his son. He can let his son study around him and solve every problem immediately. Thus, the technology development allows parents to stay around with their children.

In conclusion, parents are spending more time joining their children’s education with respect to fewer children in one family, keen for more competition, and technology development.