### Sample Essay 01

               The reading and the lecture are both about the value of television appearances by university professors.  The author of the reading argues that it is very worthwhile for academics to make such appearances.  The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article.  He believes that these appearances are not particularly useful.

               First of all, the author claims that by appearing on television, university professors can broaden their audience and will be viewed as experts in their subjects by more people than ever before.   The author believes that this can increase their importance as academic professionals.  This point is challenged by the lecturer.  He says that professors who go on television are viewed by their peers as entertainers rather than as true academics.  The lecturer claims that because of this problem, being a celebrity could even affect their ability to get funding for their work.

               Secondly, the author states that television appearances can be beneficial for the universities themselves.  It is argued that the prestige of the university is increased when one of their faculty makes a high profile media appearance.  The lecturer rebuts this argument.  He suggests that universities can suffer because celebrity professors do not have much time for their research and students.  He argues that rather than carrying out their duties, they spend a lot of time rehearsing, traveling and getting made-up for their appearances.

               Finally, the author mentions that there is a net benefit to the public when a professor appears in the media.  It is suggested that television is usually quite shallow and that professors can provide a very useful remedy to this problem.  The lecturer, on the other hand, feels that television networks do not want to present meaningful content.  He says that the abbreviated presentations that professors give on television are no more useful than what a regular reporter could deliver.

### Sample Essay 02

          The reading and the lecture are about “Portrait of an Elderly Woman in a White Bonnet,” a painting which may or may not be a work by Rembrandt.  The author of the reading believes that the painting was not done by the Dutch master.  The lecturer casts doubts on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that it was, in fact, painted by Rembrandt.

          First of all, the author claims that the woman’s outfit is inconsistent, as it pairs a servant’s cap with a luxurious coat and fur collar.  It is pointed out that Rembrandt would not have made such a mistake, as he paid very careful attention to detail.  This argument is challenged by the lecturer.  She says that the woman’s fur collar was added to the painting by another artist at a later date.  She asserts that this was likely done to increase the value of the painting.

          Secondly, the author states that the depiction of light and shadow in the portrait is poorly done.  He argues that Rembrandt would not have made the mistakes which are seen in this particular painting.  This argument is rebutted in the lecture.  The lecturer observes that when the aforementioned fur collar is removed, no mistakes with light and shadow remain.  She notes that the original version of the painting is up to Rembrandt’s usual standards.

          Finally, the author mentions that the portrait was painted on a series of panels which were glued together.  It is noted that while Rembrandt often painted on wood panels, there is no evidence that he ever used panels that were glued together in such a fashion.  The lecturer casts doubt on this by arguing that the wood panel was expanded many years after the painting was originally done.  She puts forth the idea that  this is evidence that the painting was originally completed on just a single panel like other works by Rembrandt.

### Sample Essay 03

          The reading and the lecture are both about Sacsayhuaman, which is a walled fortress built by the Incan people near the city of Cusco.  The author of the reading believes that the fortress was not built for defensive purposes.  The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that, in fact, the fortress was built to defend the Inca against invaders.

          First of all, the author claims that the walls in the fortress were not solid.  It is noted that the fortress actually consists of a series of walls with great gaps in between them, which invaders could have passed through.  This point is challenged by the lecturer. She says that the gaps were left in order to conserve building materials.  Furthermore, she points out that natural barriers would have provided sufficient defense in the areas where the gaps were located.

          Secondly, the author states that the wall contains various entryways.  The article argues that these passages were not defended very well and that aggressors could have entered through them.  This argument is rebutted by the lecturer.  She suggests that the entries were left because the Inca needed to see the invaders as they approached in order to plan their strategies.  She elaborates on this by mentioning that the entries were mostly windows which were too small for invaders to fit through.

          Finally, the author mentions that no wells have been found behind the walls.  The author's opinion is that if the fortress had been blockaded by invaders the defenders would have died of thirst.  The lecturer, on the other hand, feels that because of the high altitude of the fortress, invaders would not have been able to sustain long attacks.  She puts forth the idea that defenders could have resupplied when their attackers fell back as a result of the altitude.

### Sample Essay 04

          The reading and the lecture are both about iron fertilization, which is the introduction of iron into oceans in order to stimulate the bloom of plankton which absorbs carbon dioxide from the air.  The author of the reading believes that this is not an effective way to halt global warming.  The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that iron fertilization is a very effective way to prevent this serious problem.

          First of all, the author claims that plankton does not lock away as much carbon dioxide as has previously been assumed.  The reading notes that previous estimates fall short of actual amounts that will be absorbed as a result of iron fertilization.  This point is challenged by the lecturer. She says that the plankton does absorb a very significant amount of carbon dioxide.  Furthermore, she points out that recent studies of the phenomenon have not been carried out for long enough to accurately measure how much dangerous CO2 can potentially be locked away within the plankton.

          Secondly, the author states that the process of iron fertilization results in the formation of too many dangerous toxins.  It is argued that that the toxins produced can lead to very harmful phenomena like red tides.  This argument is rebutted by the lecturer.  She suggests that the production of toxins is not a major problem.  She elaborates on this by mentioning that when global warming is no longer a threat the process can be called off and we will not have to worry about toxins any more.

          Finally, the author mentions that iron fertilization can have a negative effect on eco-systems.  He is of the opinion that the presence of so much plankton will favor certain species which will disrupt naturally occurring food chains.  The lecturer, on the other hand, feels that the problem of global warming is much more serious than that of disrupted eco-systems.  She puts forth the idea that global warming is critical to the natural environment of the entire earth.

### The Essay 05

The reading and the lecture are both about the Moai of Easter Island.  The author of the reading believes that the construction of the Moai led to the collapse of the civilization located there.  The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that the society on the island did not suffer as a result of the construction of the Moai.

First of all, the author claims that the people of the island cut down vast amounts of valuable trees in order to build the statues.  He notes that the Moai were moved across the island using wooden tracks and log rollers. This point is challenged by the lecturer. She says that islanders used a series of ropes to walk the statues to their intended locations.  Furthermore, she points out that this method did not require any trees and has even been replicated by teams of modern researchers.

Secondly, the author states that eventually every tree on the island was cut down.  He argues that without any trees, migratory birds stopped visiting the island and the people were no longer able to feed themselves. This argument is rebutted by the lecturer.  She suggests that palm seeds that date from the time period show evidence of having been chewed on by rats.  She elaborates on this by mentioning that the original inhabitants of the island brought rats with them as food, and that they were the main cause of deforestation on the island.

Finally, the author mentions that the problems described above eventually led to a major population collapse.  He is of the opinion that the population of Easter Island fell from a high of twenty thousand down to a low of just two thousand when European explorers first arrived. The lecturer, on the other hand, feels that Easter Island never supported a population of twenty thousand.  She puts forth the idea that this estimate was based on an old misunderstanding of when the island was originally settled and that there were never more than two thousand people living there.

### Sample Essay 06

          The reading and the lecture are both about the effectiveness of coal as an energy source.  The author of the reading believes that coal remains a very useful source of energy.  The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that coal has serious effects on both humans and the world around them, and therefore should no longer be used.

          First of all, the author claims that prices of other energy sources, such as fossil fuels, have increased dramatically.  He notes that we have limited reserves of such fuel sources, but that coal exists in huge quantities. This point is challenged by the lecturer. She says that coal is an inefficient means of energy production in comparison to all other alternatives.  She points out that for this reason coal should not be used, even though it is cheaper than other fuel sources.

          Secondly, the author states that coal is a reliable fuel source which has been used for hundreds of years.  He argues that because coal has been used for such a long period, humans have discovered the most effective ways to utilize it.  This argument is rebutted by the lecturer.  She suggests that coal is known to pollute water supplies.  She elaborates on this by mentioning that coal must be washed and prepared using toxic chemicals which are injected into underground mines after use.  This, she says, puts water supplies at risk.

          Finally, the author mentions that coal has been put to use all over the globe.  He describes how uses of coal include alumna refining, paper manufacturing, chemical production and the pharmaceutical industry. The lecturer, on the other hand, feels that coal can cause major damage to the human central nervous system because it emits carbon monoxide when used in industry.  She puts forth the idea that technology is simply not advanced enough to make it safe to use.

### Sample Essay 07

          The reading and the lecture are both about whether monarch butterfly populations are declining, and whether herbicides should be banned as a result.  The author of the reading believes that  herbicides should not be banned.  The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that herbicides pose a serious threat to the butterflies and should be outlawed.

          First of all, the author claims that no overall decline in monarch butterfly populations has been observed in North America.  He notes that populations in certain areas have dropped, but that these have been offset by gains in other locations.  This point is challenged by the lecturer. She says because the butterflies are extremely territorial, it is very easy for biologists to count them.  Furthermore, she points out that a very clear drop in monarch butterfly populations has, in fact, been measured.

          Secondly, the author states that herbicides kill the milkweed that butterflies consume, but that plenty of it still remains in the wild for them to feed on.  He argues that herbicides have not caused a general decline in milkweed availability, but just a decline on commercial farmland.  This argument is rebutted by the lecturer.  She suggests that it is a well-known fact that America is rapidly losing rural land because of urban sprawl.  She notes that this effect has led to a very real decline of milkweed availability in rural areas.

          Finally, the author mentions that the attempt to ban herbicides is based on emotion rather than evidence and research.  He is of the opinion that people only want to ban the herbicides because they affect the food of their beloved butterflies.  The lecturer, on the other hand, feels that the move to ban herbicides is based on a rational examination of the evidence available.  She puts forth the idea that we know the herbicides affect milkweed and  we know that butterflies consume milkweed, so we can logically assume that the herbicides are detrimental to the insects.

### Sample Essay 08

          The reading and the lecture are both about why animals that existed in the “early earth” period were larger than animals today.  The author of the reading presents three possible explanations for this phenomenon.  The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that none of the theories are supported by facts or evidence.

          First of all, the author claims that animals were larger because the early earth had a greater supply of oxygen.  He notes that high oxygen levels stimulate growth in certain species.  This point is challenged by the lecturer. She says that the atmosphere of the early earth was full of poisonous gasses which made it difficult for animals to breathe.  She points out that oxygen levels were not higher than they are today.

          Secondly, the author states that animals that existed in the early earth period grew large as a result of having access to abundant plant life to feed on.  He argues that animals grew large because they consumed high levels of nutrients and that they passed down their size to succeeding generations.  This argument is rebutted by the lecturer.  She suggests that plant life was in fact abundant, but that it was mostly low in nutrients.  She notes that this is because plants rely on carbon dioxide to grow strong, but  they did not have much carbon dioxide during the period.

          Finally, the author mentions that warm climates caused animals in this period to grow large.  He is of the opinion that because they did not have to use energy to stay warm, they were able to channel it into growing larger bodies.  The lecturer, on the other hand, feels that in today’s era warm climates are mostly known for having small animals.  She puts forth the idea that massive bodies are disadvantageous in warm climates.

### Sample Essay 09

         The reading and the lecture are both about the consumption of wheat by humans in the pre-historic period. The author of the reading believes that bread was the first product produced from wheat.  The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that, in fact, beer was the first product that resulted from wheat production.

         First of all, the author claims that early humans prepared wheat for consumption by grinding it between two stones. He notes that wheat was much easier to consume if it was ground to to a thin paste in advance, rather than just being chewed raw.  This point is challenged by the lecturer. She says that it was not necessary to grind wheat as it could be sprouted naturally in a moist environment.  Furthermore, she points out that sprouted wheat is sweeter, softer and more nutritious than ground wheat.

         Secondly, the author states that early humans would have easily discovered how to bake bread by exposing their ground wheat to fire.  He argues that baked bread could be stored for long periods of time which would have greatly increased the value of wheat as food.  This argument is rebutted by the lecturer.  She suggests that humans during this period did not know how to cook food with fire.  She notes that applying fire to food in order to make it more palatable was simply not an obvious idea at that time.

         Finally, the author mentions that early humans would have noticed the effects of yeast spores landing on the ground wheat paste when it was left out in the open.  He is of the opinion that the bubbles that formed when the yeast landed indicated to people that baked bread would be lighter and easier to eat than raw wheat.  The lecturer, on the other hand, feels that fermentation happened very quickly when wheat paste was put into storage.  She puts forth the idea that the nice taste of the bubbles that formed when fermentation happened would have been more likely to lead to beer production than to bread production.

### The Sample Essay 10

        The reading and the lecture are both about forest fires, and whether or not they should be deliberately suppressed.  The author of the reading believes that it is beneficial to stop such fires from occurring.  The lecturer casts doubt on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that it is more advantageous to allow forest fires to occur.

         First of all, the author claims that stopping forest fires can help to improve the overall health of trees.  He notes that the along the eastern seaboard where fire suppression systems have been used, huge canopies have been formed by thriving oak and hickory trees.  This point is challenged by the lecturer. She says that such canopies block the light that young trees need to grow strong. Furthermore, she points out that as a result of this species that do not need much light will invade their natural habitat.

         Secondly, the author states that stopping fires will allow vines and bushes to thrive at lower levels of the forest ecosystem.  He argues that fires actually reduce the amount of nutrients available in soil.  This argument is rebutted by the lecturer.  She suggests that fires benefit lower levels of the forest by killing off plants before they grow into huge thickets.  She elaborates on this by mentioning that huge masses of plants prevent young trees from reaching maturity.

         Finally, the author mentions that stopping fires prevents animals from being burned to death.  He mentions that deer are a specific species that can thrive when fires are stopped.  The lecturer, on the other hand, feels that rising deer populations are also a result of recent limitations on hunting.  She puts forth the idea that deer can harm forests by consuming oak saplings that already have a difficult time growing when fires are suppressed.

### Sample Essay 11

The reading and the listening are about whether or not dinosaurs were endotherms. The author of the reading feels there is evidence to suggest that dinosaurs were animals of this type. The professor, on the other hand, is not convinced of this. He casts doubt on each of the theories presented in the reading.

First of all, the author points out that dinosaur fossils have been found in cold polar regions. It is noted that only animals that can maintain warm body temperatures, like endotherms, could have been active in climates of this type. The lecturer casts doubt on this claim. She observes that today’s polar regions were much warmer during the time of the dinosaurs; warm enough for non-endotherms to inhabit them. Moreover, she observes that such animals could have migrated or hibernated during months when the temperatures actually were very cold.

Secondly, the author contends that the dinosaurs were endotherms based on the structure of their legs. The article points out that dinosaurs had legs underneath their bodies, just like all modern endotherms. On the other hand, the lecturer notes that the leg structure of dinosaurs served merely to support their weight. She contends that having legs under their bodies allowed the dinosaurs to evolve to very large sizes, which was advantageous in many ways.

Finally, the author makes a connection between endothermy and bone structure. The bones of dinosaurs contained bodies called Haversian canals, which helped them to grow large, which is a common characteristic of endotherms. The professor challenges the validity of this point. She notes that dinosaur bones also show evidence of growth rings. She says that these rings indicate that the dinosaurs grew in spurts, which is a characteristic of non-endotherms.

### Sample Essay 12

The reading and the lecture are about communal online encyclopedias, which are unique because they can be revised and edited by anyone in the world. The author of the reading argues that they are less reliable than traditional printed encyclopedias. The professor casts doubt on each of the criticisms made by the author.

To begin with, the author notes that such encyclopedias are edited by individuals without academic credentials. He feels that this means their contributions are sometimes inaccurate or ill-informed. The professor challenges this point. He asserts that even traditional encyclopedias are not perfectly accurate. Moreover, he says that when errors creep into printed books, they remain there for years, unlike in online sources where they can be quickly corrected.

Secondly, the author claims that vandals and hackers have opportunities to include false information in online encyclopedias, or to corrupt and vandalize correct information. He feels that unsuspecting users have no way of detecting when this has occurred. The professor casts doubt on these claims. He draws attention to the fact that the administrators of online encyclopedias have methods of protecting their content. He says that they have special editors who watch all changes and revert those which are obviously malicious.

Finally, the author points out that communal reference works tend to focus on topics which are trivial or unimportant. This can create a false impression of which topics are important and which are not. The lecturer, in contrast, says that because online encyclopedias have unlimited space they are free to cover a wide variety of topics. He argues that just because a considerable number of articles are written about popular topics, we should not assume that academic topics are not being represented.

### Sample Essay 13

The reading and the lecture are about the advantages and disadvantages of buying a business franchise. The author of the reading believes than buying a franchise can be quite advantageous for people who are interested in owning a business. The professor casts doubt on this claim. She believes that a recent study calls this idea into question.

First of all, the author claims that first-time business owners often struggle to gain reliable access to the goods and services needed to run a business. It is noted that buying a franchise, however, eliminates this problem because the franchising company specifies which suppliers must to be used. The professor challenges the validity of this assertion. She notes that the approved suppliers tend to overcharge. She elaborates on this by noting that even if there are cheaper goods available, the franchise owner is forbidden from purchasing them.

Secondly, the author points out that owning a franchise can result in more affordable advertising and promotion. This is because buying a franchise means joining a well-established brand with a sophisticated marketing program already in place. The professor, in contrast, points out that franchise owners are typically required to pay an amount equal to up to six percent of their total sales to the parent company for advertising services. She contends that the sort of advertising purchased by the franchise company results in less overall benefit to the franchise owners than what they would get if they paid to advertise their business directly.

Finally, the author observes that a franchise offers increased security. The article observes that many independent businesses fail during their first few years of operation, and that this can sometimes be avoided by starting a franchise business. The professor casts doubt on this assertion. She points out that buying a franchise is not the least-risky option for aspiring businesspeople. She points out that it is even less risky to purchase an already existing business from an independent operator.

### Sample Essay 14

The reading and the listening are about the mysterious “great houses” found by archaeologists in the Chaco Canyon area of New Mexico. The author presents three theories about the possible purpose of these structures, while the lecturer argues that each of the author’s theories is unfounded and that the true use of the houses is unknown.

First of all, the author says that the structures were used for residential purposes. It is noted that they are very similar to the “apartment buildings” located in nearby Taos, New Mexico, where people have been living for centuries. The professor casts doubt on this theory. She says that while the buildings may resemble such apartment buildings from the outside, their interiors do not. She points out that the great houses do not contain very many fireplaces, which would have been necessary if they were inhabited by families.

Secondly, the author mentions that the structures could have been used to store food. The article asserts that the Chaco people consumed great quantities of maize, which could have been stored in the houses for long periods of time without spoiling. On the other hand, the professor says that excavations of the sites have not turned up any signs of maize. She says that if the buildings had been used to store this crop, we would have found signs of either spilled maize or containers for maize.

Finally, the author states that the structures could have served as ceremonial centers. The author observes that archeologists found a mound of broken pots near one of the houses, and that pots were used by people of the region during special occasions. The professor notes, in contrast, that the mound contained other materials as well, including many which would not have been used in ceremonies. She feels that the mound was merely a trash heap left behind when the house was being constructed.

### Sample Essay 15

The reading and the listening are both about smart cars, which are vehicles that are able to drive themselves. The author of the reading describes three benefits related to these cars. The professor casts doubt on each of the theories presented in the reading. He does not feel that the cars are as beneficial as the author assumes.

First of all, the author states that smart cars will save lives by preventing accidents. It is noted that that the sensors and computer systems used in the smart cars are more efficient than human judgment when it comes to preventing accidents. The lecturer casts doubt on this assertion. He is of the opinion that smart cars will still get into accidents. Moreover, he believes that if smart car technology leads to denser traffic than before, certain types of accidents will be even worse than they currently are.

Secondly, the author claims that smart cars will lead to the end of traffic problems. The article says that this will result from the fact that smart cars can follow each other closely at higher speeds than regular cars. The lecturer challenges this theory. He states that if driving becomes more convenient, more people will opt to join in. He says that with an increased number of cars on the road, traffic congestion will actually increase.

Finally, the author points out that smart cars will reduce the cost of driving. As a result of the fact that smart cars are programmed to take very direct routes, owners will not need to spend as much money on repairs and replacement parts. The professor, on the other hand, points out that smart cars utilize a lot of expensive technology not implemented in regular cars. He says that repairing this sort of technology will be more costly than repairing the parts in a normal vehicle.

### Sample Essay 16

          The reading and the lecture are both about ecocertification of wood products, which is a way to show that they are environmentally friendly.  ​  The author of the reading believes that American companies will not adopt this practice.  The lecturer casts doubts on the claims made in the article.  She thinks that American wood companies will eventually certify their products.

            First of all, the author points out that customers will likely ignore such a label. It is mentioned that many products are now given special labels, so shoppers no longer trust them. This point is challenged by the lecturer. She says customers actually do pay attention to claims when they are made by official agencies. Furthermore, she she argues that Americans will be enthusiastic about products that are endorsed by a trustworthy organization​.

          Secondly, the author contends that it costs a lot to have wood inspected, so certified products will be more expensive. The article notes that American consumers are strongly motivated by price, and will choose products that have not been certified. The lecturer rebuts this argument. She suggests that customers do not care too much about small differences in price. She elaborates on this by mentioning that certified products will only be about five percent more expensive, which will not affect the purchasing decisions of buyers.

          Finally, the author states that certification only makes sense for companies that sell products outside of the United States. The article establishes that American firms sell most of their products domestically, and their customers are happy with their merchandise as it is. The professor, on the other hand, posits that American businesses should be afraid of foreign competitors. She puts forth the idea that foreign firms could flood into America and win customers by selling ecocertified wood to people who care about the environment.

### Sample Essay  17

          The reading and the listening are about the memoirs of the Chevalier de Seingalt, who was a very controversial figure. The author of the reading feels that his memoir is an inaccurate document. The professor, on the other hand, thinks that the memoir is a reliable record. He casts doubt on each of the ideas presented in the reading.

          First of all, the author points out that in the memoir, the Chevalier claims to be very wealthy. He says that recent evidence, however, suggests that the Chevalier needed to borrow a lot of money, and therefore could not have been rich. The lecturer casts doubt on this claim. She observes that the Chevalier was rich, but did not have cash which is why he borrowed money. Moreover, she observes that he needed to borrow money while waiting for his assets to be converted into money he could actually spend.

          Secondly, the author contends that the conversations recorded in the memoir may not be very precise. He notes that they occurred many years before the memoir was written, and that it would have been impossible for the Chevalier to remember them accurately. On the other hand, the lecturer notes that Chevalier often recorded conversations in his journals immediately after they occurred. She contends that when he was writing his memoirs he referred to such diaries.

          Finally, the author states that the Chevalier’s depiction of his own escape from a famous prison in Venice cannot possibly be honest. He points out that instead of escaping through a hole in the ceiling he probably had a friend bribe one of the jail keepers. The professor, on the other hand, notes that prisoners with even more powerful friends could not bribe their way out of the jail. She also says that shortly after the Chevalier’s purported escape, a hole in the ceiling had to be repaired, which indicates that he may have escaped in the way described in his memoir.

### Sample Essay 18

The reading and the lecture are about wave farms, which are considered to be a possible alternative to fossil fuels. The author of the reading believes that these facilities have many advantages. The lecturer casts doubts on the author’s claims. He does not believe that they are particularly advantageous.

First of all, the author notes that wave farms are reliable sources of power because they utilize waves which are constant and predictable. As a result, it is possible to guess exactly how much energy they can produce. The lecturer disagrees with this assertion. He says that wave generators are not very reliable because they often experience technical problems because of the harsh environment they operate in. He points out that for this reason the amount of power they produce fluctuates wildly.

Secondly, in the article it is mentioned that wave farms do not harm the environment. It is pointed out that they do not burn fossils fuels, so no harmful gasses are emitted into the environment. This point is challenged in the lecture. The lecturer says that the convertors used in the stations contain damaging chemicals that can sometimes leak into the surrounding ocean. He asserts that these will have a very bad effect on marine organisms when this happens.

Finally, the author observes that wave farms do not affect the attractiveness of the surrounding area. It is mentioned that they float just near the surface of the ocean, so they cannot be spotted by local people. The lecturer, on the other hand, posits that they actually do clash with local scenery. He says that they are painted bright colors so they can be detected by ships, which means that tourists can also spot them from beaches.

### Sample Essay 19

The reading and the lecture are both about the mysterious disappearance of the Anasazi people. The author argues that drought was the cause of their disappearance. The lecturer casts doubt on this belief. She does not believe that there is enough evidence to support this assertion.

First of all, the author notes that bones of Anasazi people indicate that they suffered from malnutrition. The author posits that this is a sign that there was not enough rainfall for them to grow enough crops to feed themselves. The lecturer challenges this claim. He points out poor nutrition was common among the Anasazi no matter how much food was grown. He notes that farmers gave most of their crops away to religious leaders so that they would perform ceremonies for them.

Secondly, it is mentioned in the reading that the Anasazi settlements were sealed up, so they must have intended to return to them after they were abandoned. This is exactly what they did during dry periods that occurred previously. This point is made doubtful by claims in the lecture. The lecturer observes that the dry period ended shortly after the Anasazi left the settlements, but they did not return. He says that if they had left because of a drought, they would have come back once it was over.

Finally, the author raises the point that the Anasazi people later ended up in areas with ample water supplies. This suggests that they were trying to escape drought conditions. The lecturer, on the other hand, points out that many of them moved to what is now Arizona, which is an area without much water and is not suitable for farming. He claims that if they were running from dry conditions, it is odd that they would move to a place which was even more arid.

### Sample Essay 20

The reading and the lecture are both about transient lunar phenomena (TLP), which are short color changes that are occasionally seen on the surface of the moon. The reading presents three possible explanations for this phenomenon, but the lecturer feels that none of these explanations are plausible.

To begin with, the author suggests that the TLP are caused by gas found beneath the moon’s surface which is sometimes ejected into the atmosphere. It is argued that this theory is supported by the fact that TLPs are often seen near craters which the gas can escape from. The lecturer casts doubt on this claim. He says that it is just a coincidence that the TLPs are seen near craters, which are the most common feature of the moon. He observes that a NASA probe which detected gas near a major crater might have only found a small amount of it.

Secondly, the author observes that the TLPS might just be bright clouds of dust floating above the surface of the moon. It is mentioned that this dust can reflect light, leading to the observed phenomenon. The lecturer, in contrast, says that dust clouds would have to be massive in order to be observed from Earth. However, there is no evidence of a large amount of dust on the moon.

Thirdly, the author posts that TLPs might be a product of solar radiation. The article notes that magnetic storms occurring on the sun release radiation which might illuminate certain sections of the lunar landscape. The lecturer challenges this assertion. He points out that the dates when TLPs have been observed do not match the dates of known solar flares. He observes that for the most part, there is no relationship between these two events.