

Practice Quiz: Claims, Qualifiers, and Inductive and Deductive Logic

The following passage about Wayne Gretzky, from Peter Gzowski's *The Game of Our Lives*, nicely illustrates several argumentation principles and practices we've been discussing lately. (I pulled the passage out of a longer section, so I modified, very slightly, some of the sentences.) After reading it carefully several times, answer the following questions. You may use your notes. By the way, it may help you to know Gzowski spent a year with Gretzky's team, the Edmonton Oilers, preparing to write *The Game of Our Lives*.

At whatever speed Gretzky skates, his elbows fly up behind him. Since he almost always has his head up and is constantly peering around his surroundings, he looks a bit like a chicken-hawk on the prowl. But, also like a hawk, he is deceptively fast. In wind-sprints up and down or across the ice at training camp he was seldom if ever beaten. Around the league, and even on the Oilers' own roster, there are players who might out-race him over a distance or who, once they had gained their momentum, might pass him on an open stretch. However, no one ever beats him to an open puck. He is quick as a whisper. His suppleness seems to extend to his ankles. As a young boy, he was kept by his father in soft-booted skates. As a result, he is able to swerve suddenly without appearing to move his upper body. Often, though, he leans into turns, dropping one shoulder so low that it seems inevitable he will fall, but he seems to catch himself at the last moment, and he scoots off in a different direction. There are opponents who swear he can move sideways.

1. What two related topics do this paragraph's claims and data primarily focus on? (2 pts):

Gretzky's _____ and

Gretzky's _____

2. Which sentence seems to function as the main claim? (There are two possible correct answers.) (1 pts):
3. I count at least eight qualifiers in the above paragraph. What are two of them? (1 pt)

See the next page for additional questions.

5. Describing Gretzky's extraordinary skills and development, Gzowski writes, "His suppleness seems to extend to his ankles. As a young boy, he was kept by his father in soft-booted skates. As a result, he is able to swerve suddenly without appearing to move his upper body." Assuming this passage is largely deductive and enthymemic in nature, what sort of syllogism can you derive or draw out from this? (4 pts)

BONUS:

6. Where do you see Gzowski explicitly recognize an exception to his central claim(s) about Gretzky? (2 pts)