

Inductive/Part-for-the-Whole Reasoning: Practice Exercise

Read the following scenario and answer the questions below.

This past summer, ND freshman and Buffalo, NY native Kelly Taylor traveled to South Bend for the first time, staying for almost five days. She and her family enjoyed touring the Notre Dame campus, helping Kelly prepare for her freshman year.

While in the South Bend area, Kelly and her family ate several meals at Culver's, a popular fast-food restaurant based mostly in the Midwest. According to their corporate website, there are currently over 500 Culver's restaurants across the United States. Kelly's family visited the Culver's in Mishawaka twice, and once they ate at the Culver's on the south side of South Bend. With each visit, after her meal Kelly ordered and enjoyed a Concrete, which is an ice cream concoction similar to a Blizzard from Dairy Queen (ice cream with candy, cookies, etc. mixed in). Prior to visiting Culver's and eating the Concretes, Kelly had eaten numerous Blizzards over the years, most of them from various Dairy Queens around Buffalo.

Back home in Buffalo and wishing there was a Culver's in upstate NY, Kelly declared, "Culver's Concretes are great!"

Easy question: What's Kelly's claim?

What evidence leads Kelly to that claim? That is, what evidence do we have access to? What potentially relevant evidence or information is not offered?

Explain how all four elements of **STAR** are relevant to an assessment of Kelly's claim about the quality of the ice cream Concretes at Culver's. Also, which element(s) seem(s) most relevant?

How would you rate the relative strength of Kelly's claim? Why?
(0 = invalid, total fail; 5 = somewhat reasonable; 10 = flawless, perfect)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10