TOEFL Writing Task: Independent

**In surveys Mason City residents rank water sports (swimming, boating, and fishing) among their favorite recreational activities. The Mason River flowing through the city is rarely used for these pursuits, however, and the city park department devotes little of its budget to maintaining riverside recreational facilities. For years there have been complaints from residents about the quality of the river’s water and the river’s smell. In response, the state has recently announced plans to cleanup Mason River. Use of the river for water sports is, therefore, sure to increase. The city government should for that reason devote more money in this year’s budget to riverside recreational facilities. (6)**

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| Argument | Explain why this position was selected | 1 |
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|  | Give your suggestion | 0 |
| Critical Analysis | Introduce and compare with other side of argument | 1 |
|  | Contrast: How they are different | 1 |
|  | More examples | 0 |
| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
|  | Connect back to the premise  while justifying all arguments made | 1 |
| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
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**The following appeared in a memorandum written by the vice president of Nature's Way, a**

**chain of stores selling health food and other health-related products.**

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**The following appeared in a letter sent by a committee of homeowners from the Deerhaven**

**Acres to all homeowners in Deerhaven Acres.**

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**The following appeared in a newspaper article about law firms in the city of Megalopolis.**

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**"Of the two leading real estate firms in our town---Adams Realty and Fitch Realty---Adams is**

**clearly superior. Adams has 40 real estate agents. In contrast, Fitch has 25, many of whom**

**work only part-time. Moreover, Adams' revenue last year was twice as high as that of Fitch,**

**and included home sales that averaged $168,000, compared to Fitch's $144,000. Homes**

**listed with Adams sell faster as well: ten years ago, I listed my home with Fitch and it took**

**more than four months to sell; last year, when I sold another home, I listed it with Adams, and it**

**took only one month. Thus, if you want to sell your home quickly and at a good price, you**

**should use Adams."**

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**"A jazz music club in Monroe would be a tremendously profitable enterprise. Currently, the**

**nearest jazz club is 65 miles away; thus, our proposed club, the C Note, would have the local**

**market all to itself. Plus, jazz is extremely popular in Monroe: over 100,000 people attended**

**Monroe's jazz festival last summer, several well-known jazz musicians live in Monroe, and the**

**highest-rated radio program in Monroe is 'Jazz Nightly,' which airs every weeknight. Finally, a**

**nationwide study indicates that the typical jazz fan spends close to $1,000 per year on jazz**

**entertainment. It is clear that the C Note cannot help but make money."**

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**"In the next mayoral election, residents of Clearview should vote for Ann Green, who is a**

**member of the Good Earth Coalition, rather than for Frank Braun, a member of the Clearview**

**town council, because the current members are not protecting our environment. For example,**

**during the past year the number of factories in Clearview has doubled, air pollution levels have**

**increased, and the local hospital has treated 25 percent more patients with respiratory**

**illnesses. If we elect Ann Green, the environmental problems in Clearview will certainly be**

**solved."**

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**"Mesa Foods, a manufacturer of snack foods that currently markets its products within a**

**relatively small region of the country, has strong growth potential. Mesa enjoyed a 20 percent**

**increase in profits last year, and its best-selling product, Diabolique Salsa, has had increased**

**sales over each of the past three years. Since Omni Inc. is interested in reaching 14-to-25 year**

**olds, the age group that consumes the most snack food, we should buy Mesa Foods, and**

**concentrate in particular on marketing Diabolique Salsa throughout the country."**

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**"Fifteen years ago, Omega University implemented a new procedure that encouraged**

**students to evaluate the teaching effectiveness of all their professors. Since that time, Omega**

**professors have begun to assign higher grades in their classes, and overall student grade**

**averages at Omega have risen by thirty percent. Potential employers apparently believe the**

**grades at Omega are inflated; this would explain why Omega graduates have not been as**

**successful at getting jobs as have graduates from nearby Alpha University. To enable its**

**graduates to secure better jobs, Omega University should now terminate student evaluation of**

**professors."**

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**"The department of agriculture in Batavia reports that the number of dairy farms throughout the**

**country is now 25 percent greater than it was 10 years ago. During this same time period,**

**however, the price of milk at the local Excello Food Market has increased from $1.50 to over**

**$3.00 per gallon. To prevent farmers from continuing to receive excessive profits on an**

**apparently increased supply of milk, the Batavia government should begin to regulate retail**

**milk prices. Such regulation is necessary to ensure both lower prices and an adequate supply**

**of milk for consumers."**

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**"Two years ago, our consultants predicted that West Egg's landfill, which is used for garbage**

**disposal, would be completely filled within five years. During the past two years, however, town**

**residents have been recycling twice as much aluminum and paper as they did in previous**

**years. Next month the amount of material recycled should further increase, since charges for**

**garbage pickup will double. Furthermore, over ninety percent of the respondents to a recent**

**survey said that they would do more recycling in the future. Because of our residents' strong**

**commitment to recycling, the available space in our landfill should last for considerably longer**

**than predicted."**

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**"During the past year, Alta Manufacturing had thirty percent more on-the-job accidents than**

**nearby Panoply Industries, where the work shifts are one hour shorter than ours. Experts**

**believe that a significant contributing factor in many on-the-job accidents is fatigue and sleep**

**deprivation among workers. Therefore, to reduce the number of on-the-job accidents at Alta**

**and thereby increase productivity, we should shorten each of our three work shifts by one hour**

**so that our employees will get adequate amounts of sleep."**

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**"There is evidence that consumers are becoming more and more interested in growing their**

**own -vegetables. A national survey conducted last month indicated that many consumers were**

**dissatisfied with the quality of fresh vegetables available in supermarkets. And locally, the**

**gardening magazine Great Gardens has sold out at the Village News stand three months in a**

**row. Thus, we at Green Thumb Gardening Center can increase our profits by greatly**

**expanding the variety of vegetable seeds we stock for gardeners this coming spring."**

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**"Over 80 percent of the respondents to a recent survey indicated a desire to reduce their**

**intake of foods containing fats and cholesterol, and today low-fat products abound in many**

**food stores. Since many of the food products currently marketed by Old Dairy Industries are**

**high in fat and cholesterol, the company's sales are likely to diminish greatly and their profits**

**will no doubt decrease. We therefore advise Old Dairy stockholders to sell their shares and**

**other investors not to purchase stock in this company."**

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**"Two years ago our neighboring state, Lucria, began a state lottery to supplement tax**

**revenues for education and public health. Today, Lucria spends more per pupil than we do,**

**and Lucria's public health program treats far more people than our state's program does. If we**

**were to establish a state lottery like the one in Lucria, the profits could be used to improve our**

**educational system and public health program. The new lottery would doubtless be successful,**

**because a survey conducted in our capital city concludes that citizens of Impecunia already**

**spend an average of $50 per person per year on gambling."**

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**"Walnut Grove's town council has advocated switching from EZ Disposal (which has had the**

**contract for trash collection services in Walnut Grove for the past ten years) to ABC Waste,**

**because EZ recently raised its monthly fee from $2,000 to $2,500 a month, whereas ABC's fee**

**is still $2,000. But the town council is mistaken; we should continue using EZ. EZ collects trash**

**twice a week, while ABC collects only once. Moreover, EZ---which, like ABC, currently has a**

**fleet of 20 trucks---has ordered additional trucks. Finally, EZ provides exceptional service: 80**

**percent of respondents to last year's town survey agreed that they were 'satisfied' with EZ's**

**performance."**

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**In an attempt to improve highway safety, Prunty County recently lowered its speed limit from**

**55 miles per hour to 45 on all major county roads. But the 55 mph limit should be restored,**

**because this safety effort has failed. Most drivers are exceeding the new speed limit and the**

**accident rate throughout Prunty County has decreased only slightly. If we want to improve the**

**safety of our roads, we should instead undertake the same kind of road improvement project**

**that Butler County completed five years ago: increasing lane widths and resurfacing rough**

**roads. Today, major Butler County roads still have a 55 mph speed limit, yet there were 25**

**percent fewer reported accidents in Butler County this past year than there were five years ago**

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|  | Give your suggestion | 0 |
| Critical Analysis | Introduce and compare with other side of argument | 1 |
|  | Contrast: How they are different | 1 |
|  | More examples | 0 |
| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
|  | Connect back to the premise  while justifying all arguments made | 1 |
| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"One year ago, tickets for Double Rice's concerts in stadiums around the country took, on**

**average, at least 24 hours to sell out, if they sold out at all. But the band has been enjoying a**

**surge in nationwide popularity among 14 to 25 year olds, and the 30,000 tickets for a recent**

**concert in Megalopolis sold out in 12 minutes. Clearly the ticket sales in Megalopolis are a**

**result both of the band's increased popularity and of the advertising campaign run in**

**Megalopolis by the Ad Lib advertising agency. Thus, in order to ensure that the band's success**

**in Megalopolis is repeated across the country, the band should hire Ad Lib to duplicate the**

**Megalopolis ad campaign on a nationwide scale."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"The population of Balmer Island increases to 100,000 duing the summer months. To reduce**

**the number of accidents involving mopeds and pedestrians, the town council of Balmer Island.,**

**should limit the number of mopeds rented by each of the island's six moped and bicycle rental**

**companies from 50 per day to 30 per day during the summer season. By limiting the number of**

**rentals, the town council is sure to attain the 50 percent reduction in moped accidents that was**

**achieved last year in the neighboring island of Torseau, when Torseau's town council enforced**

**similar limits on moped rentals."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Five years ago, at a time when we had difficulties in obtaining reliable supplies of high-quality**

**wool fabric, we discontinued production of our deluxe alpaca overcoats. Now that we have a**

**new fabric supplier, we should resume production. This coat should sell very well: since we**

**have not offered an alpaca overcoat for five years and since our major competitor no longer**

**makes an alpaca overcoat, there will be pent-up customer demand. Also, since the price of**

**most types of clothing has risen in each of the past five years, customers should be willing to**

**pay significantly higher prices for alpaca overcoats than they did five years ago, and our**

**company profits will increase."**

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| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Over the past five years, the population of Steel City has increased by more than 20 percent,**

**and family incomes in Steel City have risen much faster than the national average. Nationwide,**

**sales of houses priced above $150,000 have increased more than have sales of lower-priced**

**houses. Such data indicate that we should make changes in our business to increase**

**company profits. First, we should build fewer low-priced houses than we did last year and**

**focus instead on building houses designed to sell at above $150,000. Second, we should hire**

**additional workers so that we can build a larger total number of houses than we did last year."**

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| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**A recent sales study indicated that consumption of seafood dishes in Bay City restaurants has**

**increased by 30 percent over the past five years. Yet there are no currently operating city**

**restaurants that specialize in seafood. Moreover, the majority of families in Bay City are**

**two-income families, and a nationwide study has shown that such families eat significantly**

**fewer home-cooked meals than they did a decade ago but at the same time express more**

**concern about eating healthily. Therefore, a new Bay City restaurant specializing in seafood**

**will be quite popular and profitable.**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"In order to reduce costs, we should close some of our existing small assembly plants and**

**build a large central plant. Grandview would be an ideal location for this new plant. First, of the**

**locations that we have considered, Grandview has the largest adult population, so that we will**

**be able to staff our plant quickly and easily. Second, since the average wage earned by**

**workers in Grandview is less than that in the other locations, we should be able to keep**

**production costs low. Last, as an inducement for us to build there, Grandview's town council**

**has offered to allow us to operate for the first three years without paying city taxes."**

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| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Two years ago, the town of Ocean View built a new municipal golf course and resort hotel.**

**During the past two years, tourism in Ocean View has increased, new businesses have**

**opened there, and Ocean View's tax revenues have risen by 30 percent. The best way to**

**improve Hopewell's economy, and generate additional tax revenues, is to build a golf course**

**and resort hotel similar to those in Ocean View."**

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| conclusion |

**"For the past five years, Mr. Charles Schade has been the music director at Steel City High**

**School, and during that time the school band from Steel City High has won three regional band**

**competitions. In addition, the quality of the music rehearsal facilities and musical instruments**

**at Steel City High has improved markedly over the past five years. Because of such successes**

**at Steel City High, the Saluda school board should hire Mr. Schade to plan and direct the**

**general music education programs for the entire Saluda school system."**

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**"It has come to my attention that Sparks, Inc., the manufacturing company that just moved into**

**our state, is advertising job openings at salaries that are twice as high as those paid to our**

**experienced assembly-line workers. Some of our employees have already left to work for**

**Sparks. In order to keep our best staff, we must pay them salaries equal to those Sparks pays**

**its employees. Otherwise we will continue to lose employees in the future, because Sparks**

**must staff the additional new plants that it plans to build in the state."**

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| conclusion |

**"A recent six-month study, in which breakfast was made available at school for 100**

**schoolchildren ages five to twelve, found that children on the breakfast plan were less likely**

**than other children to be absent from or late for school. Clearly, eating breakfast before school**

**plays a role in reducing student absenteeism and tardiness. It is also well known that children**

**who regularly eat a healthful breakfast tend to perform better in school. Therefore, in order to**

**reduce absenteeism and tardiness and to improve academic performance in all of Mylar's**

**elementary and secondary schools, we should provide breakfasts for all students before each**

**school day."**

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| conclusion |

**"A ten-year study of a group of 552 men from Elysia showed that long-term consumption of**

**caffeinated black tea was associated with a much lower risk of stroke. Of these men, those**

**who drank more than three cups of black tea a day had a 70 percent lower risk of stroke than**

**those who drank no tea. These results suggest that health-conscious people should consume**

**at least three cups of black tea a day, beginning early in life."**

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| conclusion |

**"During her seventeen years as a professor of botany, Professor Thomas has proved herself to**

**be well worth her annual salary of $50,000. Her classes are among the largest at the university,**

**demonstrating her popularity among students. Moreover, the money she has brought to the**

**university in research grants has exceeded her salary in each of the last two years. Therefore,**

**in consideration of Professor Thomas' demonstrated teaching and research abilities, we**

**recommend that she receive a $10,000 raise and a promotion to Department Chairperson;**

**without such a raise and promotion, we fear that Professor Thomas will leave Elm City**

**University for another college."**

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| conclusion |

**"Over the past year, the Consolidated Copper Company (CCC) has purchased over one**

**million square miles of land in the tropical nation of West Fredonia. Mining copper on this land**

**will inevitably result in pollution and environmental disaster, since West Fredonia is home to**

**several endangered animal species. But such disaster can be prevented if consumers simply**

**refuse to purchase products that are made with CCC's copper until the company abandons its**

**mining plans."**

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**The article entitled 'Eating Iron' in last month's issue of Eating for Health reported that a recent**

**study found a correlation between high levels of iron in the diet and an increased risk of heart**

**disease. Further, it is well established that there is a link between large amounts of red meat in**

**the diet and heart disease, and red meat is high in iron. On the basis of the study and the**

**well-established link between red meat and heart disease, we can conclude that the**

**correlation between high iron levels and heart disease, then, is most probably a function of the**

**correlation between red meat and heart disease. The following appeared as a letter to the**

**editor of a national newspaper.**

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| conclusion |

**"Your recent article on corporate downsizing\* in the United States is misleading. The article**

**gives the mistaken impression that many competent workers who lost jobs as a result of**

**downsizing face serious economic hardship, often for years, before finding other suitable**

**employment. But this impression is contradicted by a recent report on the United States**

**economy, which found that since 1992 far more jobs have been created than have been**

**eliminated. The report also demonstrates that many of those who lost their jobs have found**

**new employment. Two-thirds of the newly created jobs have been in industries that tend to pay**

**above-average wages, and the vast majority of these jobs are full-time."**

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| conclusion |

**According to a poll of 200 charitable organizations, donations of money to nonprofit groups**

**increased by nearly 25 percent last year, though not all charities gained equally. Religious**

**groups gained the most (30 percent), followed by environmental groups (23 percent), whereas**

**educational institutions experienced only a very small increase in donations (3 percent). This**

**poll indicates that more people are willing and able to give money to charities but that funding**

**for education is not a priority for most people. These differences in donation rates must result**

**from the perception that educational institutions are less in need of donations than are other**

**kinds of institutions.**

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| conclusion |

**A new study collected data that shows that people who snore are more likely to gain weight**

**than are people who do not snore. It is well known that many people who snore also stop**

**breathing frequently during the night for a few seconds, a condition called sleep apnea. The**

**interruption of breathing wakes the person---often so briefly that the waking goes**

**unnoticed---and can leave the person too tired during the day to exercise. Anyone who snores,**

**therefore, should try to eat less than the average person and to exercise more**

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| conclusion |

**"The librarians in our town's school system have reported that the number of trips that our**

**students make to their school library on a voluntary basis has decreased significantly in recent**

**years. For example, the average seventh-grade student visited the school library five times**

**last year, but four of those visits were part of required classroom activities. This shows that our**

**students are reading less than in the past. To address this problem, our town needs to improve**

**the atmosphere of the libraries so that they will be comfortable places in which to work. If**

**students view the libraries as uncomfortable, then they are unlikely to want to spend much time**

**there."**

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| conclusion |

**"Although the sales of Whirlwind video games have declined over the past two years, a recent**

**survey of video-game players suggests that this sales trend is about to be reversed. The**

**survey asked video-game players what features they thought were most important in a video**

**game. According to the survey, players prefer games that provide lifelike graphics, which**

**require the most up-to-date computers. Whirlwind has just introduced several such games with**

**an extensive advertising campaign directed at people 10 to 25 years old, the age-group most**

**likely to play video games. It follows, then, that the sales of Whirlwind video games are likely to**

**increase dramatically in the next few months."**

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| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Mayor Brown was recently re-elected by a clear majority of 52 percent of Monroetown's voters.**

**Her re-election, however, does not show that most people in our town favored Mayor Brown's**

**proposal for tax reduction over that of her opponent, Mr. Greene, who proposed raising taxes**

**to improve education. It has been shown that voters nationwide tend to re-elect people already**

**in office, regardless of candidates' proposals. In fact, a local survey after the election showed**

**most people in Monroetown disagreed with Mayor Brown's proposal. Clearly most people in**

**Monroetown favor improving education and therefore approve of Mr. Greene's proposal**

**despite the fact that they did not vote for him."**

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|  | Give your suggestion | 0 |
| Critical Analysis | Introduce and compare with other side of argument | 1 |
|  | Contrast: How they are different | 1 |
|  | More examples | 0 |
| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
|  | Connect back to the premise  while justifying all arguments made | 1 |
| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Since our mechanics are responsible for inspecting and maintaining our aircraft, Get-Away**

**Airlines should pay to send them to the Quality-Care Seminar, a two-week seminar on proper**

**maintenance procedures. I recommend this seminar because it is likely to be a wise**

**investment, given that the automobile racing industry recently reported that the performance of**

**its maintenance crews improved markedly after their crews had attended the seminar. These**

**maintenance crews perform many of the same functions as do our mechanics, including**

**refueling and repairing engines. The money we spend on sending our staff to the seminar will**

**inevitably lead to improved maintenance and thus to greater customer satisfaction along with**

**greater profits for our airline."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
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| conclusion |

**"The decline in the numbers of amphibians worldwide clearly indicates the global pollution of**

**water and air. Two studies of amphibians in Yosemite National Park in California confirm my**

**conclusion. In 1915 there were seven species of amphibians in the park, and there were**

**abundant numbers of each species. However, in 1992 there were only four species of**

**amphibians observed in the park, and the numbers of each species were drastically reduced.**

**The decline in Yosemite has been blamed on the introduction of trout into the park's waters,**

**which began in 1920 (trout are known to eat amphibian eggs). But the introduction of trout**

**cannot be the real reason for the Yosemite decline because it does not explain the worldwide**

**decline."**

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"**Former Mayor Durant owes an apology to the city of Atticus. Both the damage to the River**

**Bridge, which connects Atticus to Hartley, and the traffic problems we have long experienced**

**on the bridge were actually caused 20 years ago by Durant. After all, he is the one who**

**approved the construction of the bridge. If he had approved a wider and better-designed**

**bridge, on which approximately the same amount of public money would have been spent,**

**none of the damage or problems would have occurred. Instead, the River Bridge has**

**deteriorated far more rapidly over the past 20 years than has the much longer Derby Bridge up**

**the river. Even though the winters have been severe in the past several years, this is no**

**excuse for the negligence and wastefulness of Durant."**

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| conclusion |

**"Erosion of beach sand along the shores of Tria Island is a serious threat to our island and our**

**tourist industry. In order to stop the erosion, we should charge people for using the beaches.**

**Although this solution may annoy a few tourists in the short term, it will reduce the number of**

**people using the beaches and will raise money for replenishing the sand. Replenishing the**

**sand, as was done to protect buildings on the nearby island of Batia, will help protect buildings**

**along our shores, thereby reducing these buildings' risk of additional damage from severe**

**storms. And since the areas along the shore will be more attractive as a result, the beaches**

**will be preserved and the area's tourist industry will improve over the long term."**

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"**Ever since the 1950's, when television sets began to appear in the average home, the rate of**

**crimes committed by teenagers in the country of Alta has steadily increased. This increase in**

**teenage crime parallels the increase in violence shown on television. According to several**

**national studies, even very young children who watch a great number of television shows**

**featuring violent scenes display more violent behavior within their home environment than do**

**children who do not watch violent shows. Furthermore, in a survey conducted by the Observer,**

**over 90 percent of the respondents were parents who indicated that prime-time**

**television--programs that are shown between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m.---should show less violence.**

**Therefore, in order to lower the rate of teenage crime in Alta, television viewers should**

**demand that television programmers reduce the amount of violence shown during prime time."**

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**"In a study of the effects of exercise on longevity, medical researchers tracked 500**

**middle-aged men over a 20-year period. The subjects represented a variety of occupations in**

**several different parts of the country and responded to an annual survey in which they were**

**asked: How often and how strenuously do you exercise? Of those who responded, the men**

**who reported that they engaged in vigorous outdoor exercise nearly every day lived longer**

**than the men who reported that they exercised mildly only once or twice a week. Given the**

**clear link that this study establishes between longevity and exercise, doctors should not**

**recommend moderate exercise to their patients but should instead encourage vigorous**

**outdoor exercise on a daily basis."**

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| conclusion |

**"Too much emphasis is placed on the development of reading skills in elementary school.**

**Many students who are discouraged by the lonely activity of reading turn away from**

**schoolwork merely because they are poor readers. But books recorded on audiocassette tape**

**provide an important alternative for students at this crucial stage in their education, one the**

**school board should not reject merely because of the expense involved. After all, many studies**

**attest to the value of allowing students to hear books read aloud; there is even evidence that**

**students whose parents read to them are even more likely to become able readers. Thus,**

**hearing books on tape can only make students more eager to read and to learn. Therefore, the**

**school board should encourage schools to buy books on tape and to use them in elementary**

**education."**

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| conclusion |

**"We distributed a survey to senior management at International Mega-Publishing, Inc. The**

**result of the survey clearly indicates that many employees were well prepared in business**

**knowledge and computer skills, but lacked interpersonal skills to interact gracefully with**

**customers. International Mega-Publishing decided to improve customer satisfaction by**

**sending their newly hired employees to our one-day seminars. Since taking advantage of our**

**program, International Mega-Publishing has seen a sharp increase in sales, an indication that**

**the number of their disgruntled customers has declined significantly. Your company should hire**

**Dickens and let us turn every employee into an ambassador for your company."**

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**"As a local merchant, I wish to support the development of a ski resort in the state park north of**

**our township. Along with many other merchants who favor the proposal by Ski the Slopes,**

**Incorporated, I would, of course, experience a growth in my business. But I also know how**

**much more prosperous, not to mention lively and interesting, our community would be if**

**tourism increased. Since the main opposition comes from a few environmentalists\* who do not**

**even live in this community, I see no reason to give in to their views. The First National Bank**

**has finally researched the project and agreed to fund it. As a result, I see no reason to delay**

**development of the resort."**

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**The Trash-Site Safety Council has recently conducted a statewide study of possible harmful**

**effects of garbage sites on the health of people living near the sites. A total of five sites and**

**300 people were examined. The study revealed, on average, only a small statistical correlation**

**between the proximity of homes to garbage sites and the incidence of unexplained rashes**

**among people living in these homes. Furthermore, although it is true that people living near the**

**largest trash sites had a slightly higher incidence of the rashes, there was otherwise no**

**correlation between the size of the garbage sites and people's health. Therefore, the council is**

**pleased to announce that the current system of garbage sites does not pose a significant**

**health hazard. We see no need to restrict the size of such sites in our state or to place any**

**restrictions on the number of homes built near the sites.**

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| conclusion |

**The nation of Claria covers a vast physical area. But despite wide geographic differences,**

**many citizens are experiencing rising costs of electricity. A recent study of household electric**

**costs in Claria found that families who cooled their houses with fans alone spent more on**

**electricity than did families using air conditioners alone for cooling. However, those households**

**that reported using both fans and air conditioners spent less on electricity than those**

**households that used either fans or air conditioners alone. Thus, the citizens of Claria should**

**follow the study's recommendation and use both air conditioners and fans in order to save**

**money on electricity.**

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**As people grow older, an enzyme known as PEP increasingly breaks down the neuropeptide**

**chemicals involved in learning and memory. But now, researchers have found compounds that**

**prevent PEP from breaking neuropeptides apart. In tests, these compounds almost completely**

**restored lost memory in rats. The use of these compounds should be extended to students**

**who have poor memory and difficulty in concentrating-and therefore serious problems in**

**school performance. Science finally has a solution for problems neither parents nor teachers**

**could solve.**

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| conclusion |

**In a study of reading habits of Leeville citizens conducted by the University of Leeville, most**

**respondents said they preferred literary classics as reading material. However, a follow-up**

**study conducted by the same researchers found that the type of book most frequently checked**

**out of each of the public libraries in Leeville was the mystery novel. Therefore, it can be**

**concluded that the respondents in the first study had misrepresented their reading habits.**

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| conclusion |

**A recent study shows that people living on the continent of North America suffer 9 times more**

**chronic fatigue and 31 times more chronic depression than do people living on the continent of**

**Asia. Interestingly, Asians, on average, eat 20 grams of soy per day, whereas North Americans**

**eat virtually none. It turns out that soy contains phytochemicals called isoflavones, which have**

**been found to possess disease-preventing properties. Thus, North Americans should consider**

**eating soy on a regular basis as a way of preventing fatigue and depression.**

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| conclusion |

**"In order to save a considerable amount of money, Rockingham's century-old town hall should**

**be torn down and replaced by the larger and more energy-efficient building that some citizens**

**have proposed. The old town hall is too small to comfortably accommodate the number of**

**people who are employed by the town. In addition, it is very costly to heat the old hall in winter**

**and cool it in summer. The new, larger building would be more energy efficient, costing less**

**per square foot to heat and cool than the old hall. Furthermore, it would be possible to rent out**

**some of the space in the new building, thereby generating income for the town of**

**Rockingham."**

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| Body |
| conclusion |

**Claitown University needs both affordable housing for its students and a way to fund the**

**building of such housing. The best solution to this problem is to commission a famous architect**

**known for experimental and futuristic buildings. It is common knowledge that tourists are**

**willing to pay money to tour some of the architect's buildings, so it can be expected that**

**tourists will want to visit this new building. The income from the fees charged to tourists will**

**soon cover the building costs. Furthermore, such a building will attract new students as well as**

**donations from alumni. And even though such a building will be much larger than our current**

**need for student housing, part of the building can be used as office space.**

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**"As a result of numerous consumer complaints of dizziness and nausea, Promofoods**

**requested that eight million cans of tuna be returned for testing last year. Promofoods**

**concluded that the cans did not, after all, contain chemicals that posed a health risk. This**

**conclusion is based on the fact that the chemists from Promofoods tested samples of the**

**recalled cans and found that, of the eight chemicals most commonly blamed for causing**

**symptoms of dizziness and nausea, five were not found in any of the tested cans. The**

**chemists did find that the three remaining suspected chemicals are naturally found in all other**

**kinds of canned foods."**

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**"People should not be misled by the advertising competition between Coldex and Cold-Away,**

**both popular over-the-counter cold medications that anyone can purchase without a doctor's**

**prescription. Each brand is accusing the other of causing some well-known, unwanted side**

**effect: Coldex is known to contribute to existing high blood pressure and Cold-Away is known**

**to cause drowsiness. But the choice should be clear for most health-conscious people:**

**Cold-Away has been on the market for much longer and is used by more hospitals than is**

**Coldex. Clearly, Cold-Away is more effective."**

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**A folk remedy\* for insomnia, the scent in lavender flowers, has now been proved effective. In a**

**recent study, 30 volunteers with chronic insomnia slept each night for three weeks on**

**lavender-scented pillows in a controlled room where their sleep was monitored. During the first**

**week, volunteers continued to take their usual sleeping medication. They slept soundly but**

**wakened feeling tired. During the second week, the volunteers discontinued their medication.**

**As a result, they slept less soundly than the previous week and felt even more tired. During the**

**third week, the volunteers slept longer and more soundly than in the previous two weeks. This**

**shows that over a short period of time lavender cures insomnia.**

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|  | Support position with evidence and examples | 1 |
|  | Give your suggestion | 0 |
| Critical Analysis | Introduce and compare with other side of argument | 1 |
|  | Contrast: How they are different | 1 |
|  | More examples | 0 |
| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
|  | Connect back to the premise  while justifying all arguments made | 1 |
| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**Typically, as people age, their bone mass decreases, making them more vulnerable to bone**

**fractures. A recent study concludes that the most effective way to reduce the risk of fractures in**

**later life is to take twice the recommended dose of vitamin D and calcium daily. The three-year**

**study followed a group of French women in their eighties who were nursing-home residents.**

**The women were given daily supplements of twice the recommended dose of vitamin D and**

**calcium. In addition, the women participated in a light weightlifting program. After three years,**

**these women showed a much lower rate of hip fractures than is average for their age.**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Some studies conducted by Bronston College, which is also located in a small town, reveal**

**that both male and female professors are happier living in small towns when their spouses are**

**also employed in the same geographic area. Therefore, in the interest of attracting the most**

**gifted teachers and researchers to our faculty and improving the morale of our entire staff, we**

**at Pierce University should offer employment to the spouse of each new faculty member we**

**hire. Although we cannot expect all offers to be accepted or to be viewed as an ideal job offer,**

**the money invested in this effort will clearly be well spent because, if their spouses have a**

**chance of employment, new professors will be more likely to accept our offers."**

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| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**For the past five years, consumers in California have been willing to pay twice as much for**

**oysters from the northeastern Atlantic Coast as for Gulf Coast oysters. This trend began**

**shortly after harmful bacteria were found in a few raw Gulf Coast oysters. But scientists have**

**now devised a process for killing the bacteria. Once consumers are made aware of the**

**increased safety of Gulf Coast oysters, they are likely to be willing to pay as much for Gulf**

**Coast as for northeastern Atlantic Coast oysters, and greater profits for Gulf Coast oyster**

**producers will follow.**

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| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**One year ago we introduced our first product, "Bargain Brand" breakfast cereal. Our very low**

**prices quickly drew many customers away from the top-selling cereal companies. Although the**

**companies producing the top brands have since tried to compete with us by lowering their**

**prices, and although several plan to introduce their own budget brands, not once have we**

**needed to raise our prices to continue making a profit. Given our success selling cereal,**

**Bargain Brand should now expand its business and begin marketing other low-priced food**

**products as quickly as possible.**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**The Mozart School of Music should obviously be the first choice of any music student aware of**

**its reputation. First of all, the Mozart School stresses intensive practice and training, so that**

**students typically begin their training at a very young age. Second, the school has ample**

**facilities and up-to-date professional equipment, and its faculty includes some of the most**

**distinguished music teachers in the world. Finally, many Mozart graduates have gone on to be**

**the best known and most highly paid musicians in the nation.**

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| conclusion |

**"Our poorest-selling magazine issues over the past three years were those that featured**

**international news stories on their front covers. Over the same period, competing**

**news-magazines have significantly decreased the number of cover stories that they devote to**

**international news. Moreover, the cost of maintaining our foreign bureaus to report on**

**international news is increasing. Therefore, we should decrease our emphasis on international**

**news and refrain from displaying such stories on our magazine covers."**

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| Body |
| conclusion |

**"We recommend that Grove College preserve its century-old tradition of all-female education**

**rather than admit men into its programs. It is true that a majority of faculty members voted in**

**favor of coeducation, arguing that it would encourage more students to apply to Grove. But**

**eighty percent of the students responding to a survey conducted by the student government**

**wanted the school to remain all female, and over half of the alumni who answered a separate**

**survey also opposed coeducation. Keeping the college all-female, therefore, will improve**

**morale among students and convince alumni to keep supporting the college financially."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"All students should be required to take the driver's education course at Centerville High**

**School. In the past two years several accidents in and around Centerville have involved**

**teenage drivers. Since a number of parents in Centerville have complained that they are too**

**busy to teach their teenagers to drive, some other instruction is necessary to ensure that these**

**teenagers are safe drivers. Although there are two driving schools in Centerville, parents on a**

**tight budget cannot afford to pay for driving instruction. Therefore an effective and mandatory**

**program sponsored by the high school is the only solution to this serious problem."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"A recent study indicates that Venadial, a new margarine currently produced only in the**

**country of Alta, actually reduces cholesterol levels. Derived from the resin of pine trees,**

**Venadial works by activating a metabolic response that is not yet well understood. However,**

**cholesterol levels fell ten to fifteen percent among participants in the study who consumed**

**Venadial daily, and the risk of heart attack by one-third. In addition, the new margarine is so**

**popular that stores in Alta are unable to keep it on their shelves. Therefore, if our company**

**obtains the exclusive right to sell Venadial internationally, our profits are sure to increase**

**substantially within a very short time."**

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| conclusion |

**"Membership in Oak City's Civic Club---a club whose primary objective is to discuss local**

**issues---should continue to be restricted to people who live in Oak City. People who work-in**

**Oak City but who live elsewhere cannot truly understand the business and politics of the city. It**

**is important to restrict membership to city residents because only residents pay city taxes and**

**therefore only residents understand how the money could best be used to improve the city. At**

**any rate, restricting membership in this way is unlikely to disappoint many of the nonresidents**

**employed in Oak City, since neighboring Elm City's Civic Club has always had an open**

**membership policy, and only twenty-five nonresidents have joined Elm City's Club in the last**

**ten years."**

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| conclusion |

**"In order to save money, we at the National Brush Company have decided to pay our**

**employees for each brush they produce instead of for the time they spend producing brushes.**

**We believe that this policy will lead to the production of more and better brushes, will allow us**

**to reduce our staff size, and will enable the company factories to operate for fewer**

**hours---resulting in savings on electricity and security costs. These changes will ensure that**

**the best workers keep their jobs and that the company will earn a profit in the coming year."**

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| conclusion |

**"It would be a mistake to rehire the Good-Taste Company to supply the food in our employee**

**cafeteria next year. It is the second most expensive caterer in the city. In addition, its prices**

**have risen in each of the last three years, and it refuses to provide meals for people on special**

**diets. Just last month three employees complained to me that they no longer eat in the**

**cafeteria because they find the experience 'unbearable.' Our company should instead hire**

**Discount Foods. Discount is a family-owned local company and it offers a varied menu of fish**

**and poultry. I recently tasted a sample lunch at one of the many companies that Discount**

**serves and it was delicious---an indication that hiring Discount will lead to improved employee**

**satisfaction."**

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| conclusion |

**"Many other companies have recently stated that having their employees take the Easy Read**

**Speed-Reading Course has greatly improved productivity. One graduate of the course was**

**able to read a five-hundred-page report in only two hours; another graduate rose from an**

**assistant manager to vice president of the company in under a year. Obviously, the faster you**

**can read, the more information you can absorb in a single workday. Moreover, Easy Read**

**costs only $500 per employee---a small price to pay when you consider the benefits to Acme.**

**Included in this fee is a three-week seminar in Spruce City and a lifelong subscription to the**

**Easy Read newsletter. Clearly, Acme would benefit greatly by requiring all of our employees to**

**take the Easy Read course."**

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| conclusion |

**"One recent research study has indicated that many adolescents need more sleep than they**

**are getting, and another study has shown that many high school students in our city are**

**actually dissatisfied with their own academic performance. As a way of combating these**

**problems, the high schools in our city should begin classes at 8:30 A.M. instead of 7:30 A.M.,**

**and end the school day an hour later. This arrangement will give students an extra hour of**

**sleep in the morning, thereby making them more alert and more productive. Consequently, the**

**students will perform better on tests and other assignments, and their academic skills will**

**improve significantly."**

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| conclusion |

**Butter has now been replaced by margarine in Happy Pancake House restaurants throughout**

**the southwestern United States. Only about 2 percent of customers have complained,**

**indicating that 98 people out of 100 are happy with the change. Furthermore, many servers**

**have reported that a number of customers who still ask for butter do not complain when they**

**are given margarine instead. Clearly, either these customers cannot distinguish margarine**

**from butter, or they use the term "butter" to refer to either butter or margarine. Thus, to avoid**

**the expense of purchasing butter, the Happy Pancake House should extend this cost-saving**

**change to its restaurants in the southeast and northeast as well.**

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| conclusion |

**Many employees of major United States corporations are fearful that they will lose their jobs in**

**the near future, but this fear is largely unfounded. According to a recent study, a majority of**

**companies expected to make new hires in the coming year, while fewer companies expected**

**to lay off employees. In addition, although it is very disturbing to be laid off, the proliferation of**

**programs and of workshops designed to improve job-finding skills has made being laid off far**

**less painful than it once was.**

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| conclusion |

**In the Bayhead Public Library, books that are rarely borrowed continue to take up shelf space**

**year after year, while people who want to read a recent novel frequently find that the library's**

**only copy is checked out. Clearly, the library's plan to replace books that are borrowed no more**

**than once a year with sufficient copies of more recent books will solve this problem. The**

**protest we have heard since this plan was made public has come from a small, and thus**

**unrepresentative, group of some thirty people and so should therefore be ignored.**

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| conclusion |

**"One month ago, all the showerheads on the first five floors of Sunnyside Towers were**

**modified to restrict the water flow to approximately 1/3 of its original force. Although actual**

**readings of water usage before and after the adjustment are not yet available, the change will**

**obviously result in a considerable savings for Sunnyside Corporation, since the corporation**

**must pay for water each month. Except for a few complaints about low water pressure, no**

**problems with showers have been reported since the adjustment. Clearly, restricting water flow**

**throughout all the 20 floors of Sunnyside Towers will increase our profits further."**

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| conclusion |

**"In a recent telephone survey of automobile factory workers, older employees were less likely**

**to report that having a supervisor present increases their productivity. Among workers aged 18**

**to 29, 27 percent said that they are more productive in the presence of their immediate**

**supervisor, compared to 12 percent for those aged 30 or over, and only 8 percent for those**

**aged 50 or over. Clearly, if our printing company hires mainly older employees, we will**

**increase productivity and save money because of the reduced need for supervisors."**

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| conclusion |

**"A new discovery warrants a drastic change in the diets of people living in the United States.**

**Two scientists have recently suggested that omega -3 fatty acids (found in some fish and fish**

**oils) play a key role in mental health. Our ancestors, who ate less saturated fat and more**

**polyunsaturated fat, including omega -3 fatty acids, were much less likely to suffer from**

**depression than we are today. Moreover, modern societies---such as those in Japan and**

**Taiwan---that consume large quantities of fish report depression rates lower than that in the**

**United States. Given this link between omega -3 fatty acids and depression, it is important for**

**all people in the United States to increase their consumption of fish in order to prevent**

**depression."**

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| Argument | Explain why this position was selected | 1 |
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|  | Give your suggestion | 0 |
| Critical Analysis | Introduce and compare with other side of argument | 1 |
|  | Contrast: How they are different | 1 |
|  | More examples | 0 |
| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
|  | Connect back to the premise  while justifying all arguments made | 1 |
| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**A new report suggests that men and women experience pain very differently from one another,**

**and that doctors should consider these differences when prescribing pain medications. When**

**researchers administered the same dosage of kappa options--- a painkiller---to 28 men and 20**

**women who were having their wisdom teeth extracted, the women reported feeling much less**

**pain than the men, and the easing of pain lasted considerably longer in women. This research**

**suggests that kappa opioids should be prescribed for women whenever pain medication is**

**required, whereas men should be given other kinds of pain medication. In addition,**

**researchers should reevaluate the effects of all medications on men versus women.**

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| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Since college-bound students are increasingly concerned about job prospects after**

**graduation, Foley College should attempt to increase enrollment by promising to find its**

**students jobs after they graduate. Many administrators feel that this strategy is a way for Foley**

**to compete against larger and more prestigious schools and to encourage students to begin**

**preparing for careers as soon as they enter college. Furthermore, a student who must choose**

**a career path within his or her first year of college and who is guaranteed a job after graduation**

**is more likely to successfully complete the coursework that will prepare him or her for the**

**future."**

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|  | Contrast: How they are different | 1 |
|  | More examples | 0 |
| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
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| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Over the past few years, the number of people who have purchased advance tickets for the**

**Glenville Summer Concert series has declined, indicating lack of community support. Although**

**the weather has been unpredictable in the past few years, this cannot be the reason for the**

**decline in advance ticket purchases, because many people attended the concerts even in bad**

**weather. Clearly, then, the reason for the decline is the choice of music, so the organizers of**

**the concert should feature more modern music in the future and should be sure to include**

**music composed by Richerts, whose recordings Glenville residents purchase more often than**

**any other contemporary recordings. This strategy will undoubtedly increase advance ticket**

**purchases and will increase attendance at the concerts."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
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| conclusion |

**"The development of an extensive computer-based long-distance learning program will**

**enhance the reputation of Xanadu College. This program would allow more students to enroll**

**in our courses, thereby increasing our income from student tuition. Traditional courses could**

**easily be adapted for distance learners, as was shown by the adaptation of two traditional**

**courses for our distance learning trial project last year. Also, by using computer programs and**

**taped lectures, faculty will have fewer classroom obligations and more time to engage in**

**extensive research, thereby enhancing the reputation of Xanadu."**

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|  | Contrast: How they are different | 1 |
|  | More examples | 0 |
| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
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| Structure | premise | 1 |
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| conclusion |

**"Despite opposition from some residents of West Roseville, the arguments in favor of merging**

**the townships of Roseville and West Roseville are overwhelming. First, residents in both**

**townships are confused about which authority to contact when they need a service; for**

**example, the police department in Roseville receives many calls from residents of West**

**Roseville. This sort of confusion would be eliminated with the merger. Second, the savings in**

**administrative costs would be enormous, since services would no longer be duplicated: we**

**would have only one fire chief, one tax department, one mayor, and so on. And no jobs in city**

**government would be lost---employees could simply be reassigned. Most importantly, the**

**merger will undoubtedly attract business investments as it did when the townships of Hamden**

**and North Hamden merged ten years ago."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**The Department of Education in the state of Attra recommends that high school students be**

**assigned homework every day. Yet a recent statewide survey of high school math and science**

**teachers calls the usefulness of daily homework into question. In the district of Sanlee, 86**

**percent of the teachers reported assigning homework three to five times a week, whereas in**

**the district of Marlee, less than 25 percent of the teachers reported assigning homework three**

**to five times a week. Yet the students in Marlee earn better grades overall and are less likely to**

**be required to repeat a year of school than are the students in Sanlee. Therefore, all teachers**

**in our high schools should assign homework no more than twice a week, if at all.**

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| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
|  | Connect back to the premise  while justifying all arguments made | 1 |
| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**A recent study suggests that people who are left-handed are more likely to succeed in**

**business than are right-handed people. Researchers studied photographs of 1,000 prominent**

**business executives and found that 21 percent of these executives wrote with their left hand.**

**So the percentage of prominent business executives who are left-handed (21 percent) is**

**almost twice the percentage of people in the general population who are left-handed (11**

**percent). Thus, people who are left-handed would be well advised to pursue a career in**

**business, whereas people who are right-handed would be well advised to imitate the business**

**practices exhibited by left-handers.**

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| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
|  | Connect back to the premise  while justifying all arguments made | 1 |
| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"In recent years, Liber has unfortunately moved away from its original mission: to publish the**

**works of regional small-town authors instead of those of big-city authors. Just last year, 90**

**percent of the novels we published were written by authors who maintain a residence in a big**

**city. Although this change must have been intended to increase profits, it has obviously**

**backfired, because Liber is now in serious financial trouble. The only way to address this**

**problem is to return to our original mission. If we return to publishing only the works of regional**

**small-town authors, our financial troubles will soon be resolved."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**The country Myria, which charges fees for the use of national parks, reports little evidence**

**of environmental damage. This strongly suggests that for the country Illium, the best way to**

**preserve public lands is to charge people more money when they are using national parks and**

**wilderness areas for activities with heavy environmental impact. By collecting fees from those**

**people who overuse public lands, Illium will help preserve those lands for present and future**

**generations.**

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| conclusion |

**Statistics collected from dentists indicate that three times more men than women faint while**

**visiting the dentist. This evidence suggests that men are more likely to be distressed about**

**having dental work done than women are. Thus, dentists who advertise to attract patients**

**should target the male consumer and emphasize both the effectiveness of their anesthetic**

**techniques and the sensitivity of their staff to nervous or suffering patients.**

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| conclusion |

**The citizens of Forsythe have adopted healthier lifestyles. Their responses to a recent survey**

**show that in their eating habits they conform more closely to government nutritional**

**recommendations than they did ten years ago. Furthermore, there has been a fourfold**

**increase in sales of food products containing kiran, a substance that a scientific study has**

**shown reduces cholesterol. This trend is also evident in reduced sales of sulia, a food that few**

**of the healthiest citizens regularly eat.**

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| conclusion |

**Humans arrived in the Kaliko Islands about 7,000 years ago, and within 3,000 years most of**

**the large mammal species that had lived in the forests of the Kaliko Islands had become**

**extinct. Yet humans cannot have been a factor in the species' extinctions, because there is no**

**evidence that the humans had any significant contact with the mammals. Further,**

**archaeologists have discovered numerous sites where the bones of fish had been discarded,**

**but they found no such areas containing the bones of large mammals, so the humans cannot**

**have hunted the mammals. Therefore, some climate change or other environmental factor**

**must have caused the species' extinctions.**

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| conclusion |

**"At the small, nonprofit hospital in the town of Saluda, the average length of a patient's stay is**

**two days; at the large, for-profit hospital in the nearby city of Megaville, the average patient**

**stay is six days. Also, the cure rate among patients in the Saluda hospital is about twice that of**

**the Megaville hospital. The Saluda hospital has more employees per patient than the hospital**

**in Megaville, and there are few complaints about service at the local hospital. Such data**

**indicate that treatment in smaller, nonprofit hospitals is more economical and of better quality**

**than treatment in larger, for-profit hospitals."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"With continuing publicity about the need for healthful diets, and with new research about the**

**harmful effects of eating too much sugar, nationwide demand for sugar will no doubt decline.**

**Therefore, farmers in our state should use the land on which they currently grow sugar cane to**

**grow peanuts, a food that is rich in protein and low in sugar. Farmers in the neighboring**

**country of Palin greatly increased their production of peanuts last year, and their total revenues**

**from that crop were quite high."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Last October the city of Belleville installed high intensity lighting in its central business district,**

**and vandalism there declined almost immediately. The city of Amburg has recently begun**

**police patrols on bicycles in its business district but the rate of vandalism there remains**

**constant. Since high intensity lighting is apparently the most effective way to combat crime, we**

**should install such lighting throughout Amburg. By reducing crime in this way, we can revitalize**

**the declining neighborhoods in our city."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Throughout the country last year, as more and more children below the age of nine**

**participated in youth-league softball and soccer, over 80,000 of these young players suffered**

**injuries. When interviewed for a recent study, youth-league softball players in several major**

**cities also reported psychological pressure from coaches and parents to win games.**

**Furthermore, education experts say that long practice sessions for these sports take away**

**time that could be used for academic activities. Since the disadvantages apparently outweigh**

**any advantages, we in Parkville should discontinue organized athletic competition for children**

**under nine."**

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| conclusion |

**It is known that in recent years, industrial pollution has caused the Earth's ozone layer to thin,**

**allowing an increase in the amount of ultraviolet radiation that reaches the Earth's surface. At**

**the same time, scientists have discovered, the population of a species of salamander that lays**

**its eggs in mountain lakes has declined. Since ultraviolet radiation is known to be damaging to**

**delicate tissues and since salamander eggs have no protective shells, it must be the case that**

**the increase in ultraviolet radiation has damaged many salamander eggs and prevented them**

**from hatching. This process will no doubt cause population declines in other species, just as it**

**has in the salamander species.**

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| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Several recent surveys indicate that homeowners are increasingly eager to conserve energy**

**and manufacturers are now marketing many home appliances, such as refrigerators and air**

**conditioners, that are almost twice as energy-efficient as those sold a decade ago. Also, new**

**technologies for better home insulation and passive solar heating are readily available to**

**reduce the energy needed for home heating. Therefore, we anticipate that the total demand for**

**electricity in our area will not increase, and may decline slightly. Since our three electric**

**generating plants in operation for the past 20 years have always met our needs, construction**

**of new generating plants should not be necessary."**

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**"In order to prevent conflicts in the workplace, Rifco Computer Company should require all its**

**employees to attend workshops that teach the technique of active listening, a technique in**

**which people express feelings without assigning blame. This technique has clearly benefited**

**Terland Publishing Company: five years ago, two hundred recently hired Terland employees**

**volunteered to participate in a one-day active-listening workshop. Five years later, only five**

**percent of these employees had filed formal complaints with the human resources department,**

**whereas the company as a whole had a fifteen percent complaint rate during that period."**

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| conclusion |

**The following recommendation was made by the Human Resources Manager to the board of**

**directors of the Fancy Toy Company. "In the last three quarters of this year, under the**

**leadership of our president, Pat Salvo, our profits have fallen considerably. Thus, we should**

**ask for her resignation in return for a generous severance package. In Pat's place, we should**

**appoint Rosa Winnings. Rosa is currently president of Starlight Jewelry, a company whose**

**profits have increased dramatically over the past several years. Although we will have to pay**

**Rosa twice the salary that Pat has been receiving, it will be well worth it because we can soon**

**expect our profits to increase considerably."**

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|  | Support position with evidence and examples | 1 |
|  | Give your suggestion | 0 |
| Critical Analysis | Introduce and compare with other side of argument | 1 |
|  | Contrast: How they are different | 1 |
|  | More examples | 0 |
| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
|  | Connect back to the premise  while justifying all arguments made | 1 |
| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Clearly, the successful use of robots on missions to explore outer space in the past 20 years**

**demonstrates that robots could be increasingly used to perform factory work more effectively,**

**efficiently, and profitably than human factory workers. The use of robots in factories would offer**

**several advantages. First, robots never get sick, so absenteeism would be reduced. Second,**

**robots do not make mistakes, so factories would increase their output. Finally, the use of**

**robots would also improve the morale of factory workers, since factory work can be so boring**

**that many workers would be glad to shift to more interesting kinds of tasks."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
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| conclusion |

**"So that we can better accomplish Waymarsh University's academic goals, we should adopt**

**the job-opportunity (job-op) program offered at Plateau Technical College and strongly**

**encourage all students at Waymarsh to participate in it. The success of the job-op program at**

**Plateau is evident: over the past two years, more than 75% of the freshmen at Plateau have**

**enrolled in the optional job-op program. Moreover, at Plateau, the grades of job-op students**

**are consistently higher than those of other students, 90% of the job-op students receive job**

**offers within a month after their graduation, and most former job-op students report much**

**success in their careers."**

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| conclusion |

**"In the past, the body styles of Patriot cars have been old-fashioned, and our cars have not**

**sold as well as have our competitors' cars. But now, since many regions in this country report**

**rapid increases in the numbers of newly licensed drivers, we should be able to increase our**

**share of the market by selling cars to this growing population. Thus, we should discontinue our**

**oldest models and concentrate instead on manufacturing sporty cars. We can also improve the**

**success of our marketing campaigns by switching our advertising to the Youth Advertising**

**agency, which has successfully promoted the country's leading soft drink."**

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| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
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| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"Because of declining profits, we must reduce operating expenses at Armchair Video's ten**

**video rental stores. Raising prices is not a good option, since we are famous for our special**

**bargains. Instead, we should reduce our operating hours. Last month our store in downtown**

**Marston reduced its hours by closing at 6:00 P.M. rather than 9:00 P.M. and reduced its overall**

**inventory by no longer stocking any film released more than two years ago. Since we have**

**received very few customer complaints about these new policies, we should now adopt them**

**at all other Armchair Video stores as our best strategies for improving profits."**

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**In each city in the region of Treehaven, the majority of the money spent on government-run**

**public school education comes from taxes that each city government collects. The region's**

**cities differ, however, in the value they place on public education. For example, Parson City**

**typically budgets twice as much money per year as Blue City does for its public schools---even**

**though both cities have about the same number of residents. It seems clear, therefore, that**

**Parson City residents care more about public school education than do Blue City residents.**

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| conclusion |

**"During last year's severe drought, when the water supply in the Grandview city reservoir fell to**

**an extremely low level, the city council imposed much more rigid water-rationing rules. But just**

**after these rules were imposed, industrial growth in the area declined. This clearly shows that**

**the new rationing rules have hurt industry in Grandview. Therefore, to promote the health of**

**the local economy, the city council should now stop water rationing."**

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| conclusion |

**"Because of its spectacular natural beauty and consistent climate, Clearview should be a top**

**choice for anyone seeking a place to retire. As a bonus, housing costs in Clearview have fallen**

**significantly during the past year, and real estate taxes remain lower than those in neighboring**

**towns. Nevertheless, Clearview's mayor promises many new programs to improve schools,**

**streets, and public services. Retirees in Clearview can also expect excellent health care as**

**they grow older, since the number of physicians in the area is far greater than the national**

**average."**

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| conclusion |

**"Now is the time to invest in a Power-Lift Gym franchise so that you can profit from opening**

**one of our gyms in your town. Consider the current trends: Power-Lift Gyms are already**

**popular among customers in 500 locations, and national surveys indicate increasing concern**

**with weight loss and physical fitness. Furthermore, last year's sales of books and magazines**

**on personal health totaled more than $50 million, and purchases of home exercise equipment**

**almost doubled. Investing now in a Power-Lift Gym franchise will guarantee a quick profit."**

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| conclusion |

**The following appeared in a memorandum from the president of Hyper-Go Toy Company.**

**"Last year, sales of our Fierce Fighter toy airplane declined sharply, even though the toy had**

**been a top seller for three years. Our customer surveys show that parents are now more**

**worried about youthful violence and are concerned about better education for their children.**

**Therefore, to maintain profits we should discontinue all our action toys and focus exclusively**

**on a new line of educational toys. Several other toy companies have already begun marketing**

**educational toys and report sales increases last year of 200 percent. And since the average**

**family income is growing, sales of new Hyper-Go toys should also increase."**

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**"For the third year in a row, the average household income in our country has risen significantly.**

**That prosperity means that families are likely to be spending more time and money on leisure**

**activities. Megamart stores should therefore concentrate on enlarging and promoting its line of**

**products typically used in leisure activities: athletic and outdoor equipment, televisions,**

**gourmet cooking equipment, and luggage and travel accessories."**

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**"A recent study showed that in describing a typical day's conversation, people make an**

**average of 23 references to watching television and only 1 reference to reading fiction. This**

**result suggests that, compared with the television industry, the publishing and bookselling**

**industries are likely to decline in profitability. Therefore, people who wish to have careers as**

**writers should acquire training and experience in writing for television rather than for print**

**media."**

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| conclusion |

"**Among all students who graduated from Hooper University over the past five years, more**

**physical science majors than social science majors found permanent jobs within a year of**

**graduation. In a survey of recent Hooper University graduates, most physical science majors**

**said they believed that the prestige of Hooper University's physical science programs helped**

**them significantly in finding a job. In contrast, social science majors who found permanent**

**employment attributed their success to their own personal initiative. Therefore, to ensure that**

**social science majors find permanent jobs, Hooper University should offer additional social**

**science courses and hire several new faculty members who already have national reputations**

**in the social sciences."**

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| conclusion |

**"Sales of Better Bran have declined in recent years, for reasons that management has now**

**identified. First, Better Bran is a cereal with high sugar content, and recent research studies**

**have found that most consumers say they are concerned about the amount of sugar added to**

**their breakfast cereal. Second, the price of Better Bran has increased by 5% in each of the last**

**three years. Therefore, to increase our company's profits we need to reduce the amount of**

**sugar in Better Bran and lower Better Bran's price."**

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| conclusion |

**"During her three years in office, Governor Riedeburg has shown herself to be a worthy leader.**

**Since she took office, crime has decreased, the number of jobs created per year has doubled,**

**and the number of people choosing to live in our state has increased. These trends are likely**

**to continue if she is reelected. In addition, Ms. Riedeburg has promised to take steps to keep**

**big companies here, thereby providing jobs for any new residents. Anyone who looks at Ms.**

**Riedeburg's record can tell that she is the best-qualified candidate for governor."**

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| conclusion |

**"Because the demand for our automobiles is expected to increase dramatically, we need to**

**open a new manufacturing plant as soon as possible in order to continue to thrive. Our**

**marketing projections indicate that 80 million people will want to buy our automobiles, yet our**

**existing plant can only produce 40 million automobiles. The new plant can be opened on a**

**part-time basis, with workers from our existing site rotating responsibilities, until an operational**

**staff can be trained. A major airplane manufacturer was extremely successful using this**

**part-time rotating strategy when it opened its new plant five years ago."**

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| conclusion |

**"In order to attract visitors to Central Plaza downtown and to return the plaza to its former glory,**

**the city should prohibit skateboarding there and instead allow skateboarders to use an area in**

**Monroe Park. At Central Plaza, skateboard users are about the only people one sees now, and**

**litter and defaced property have made the plaza unattractive. In a recent survey of downtown**

**merchants, the majority supported a prohibition on skateboarding in the plaza. Clearly,**

**banning skateboarding in Central Plaza will make the area a place where people can**

**congregate for fun or for relaxation."**

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| Structure | premise | 1 |
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| conclusion |

**"In order to promote economic growth in the city, city residents should vote 'yes' on the state**

**government's proposal to build a new expressway linking the outlying suburbs directly to the**

**city center. A direct link to the city center will enable downtown businesses to receive deliveries**

**more frequently, so that downtown retailers will no longer run out of stock and city**

**manufacturers will not be affected by shortages of materials. Booming businesses will attract**

**qualified workers from all over the state, workers who will be able to take advantage of the new**

**expressway to commute to work in our city. In addition to these advantages, hundreds of**

**workers will be employed to build the expressway, further stimulating the local economy!"**

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**"Ten years ago, as part of a comprehensive urban renewal program, the city of Transopolis**

**adapted for industrial use a large area of severely substandard housing near the freeway.**

**Subsequently, several factories were constructed there, crime rates in the area declined, and**

**property tax revenues for the entire city increased. To further revitalize the city, we should now**

**take similar action in a declining residential area on the opposite side of the city. Since some**

**houses and apartments in existing nearby neighborhoods are currently unoccupied, alternate**

**housing for those displaced by this action will be readily available."**

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| conclusion |

**"The members of the town school board should not be reelected because they are not**

**concerned about promoting high-quality education in the arts in our local schools. For example,**

**student participation in the high school drama club has been declining steadily, and this year**

**the school board refused to renew the contract of the drama director, even though he had**

**received many awards for his original plays. Meanwhile, over $300,000 of the high school**

**budget goes to athletic programs, and the head football coach is now the highest-paid member**

**of the teaching staff."**

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| conclusion |

**"Many popular radio and television commercials use memorable tunes and song lyrics to call**

**attention to the products being advertised. Indeed, a recent study of high school students**

**showed that 85 percent could easily recognize the tunes used to advertise leading soft drinks**

**and fast-food restaurants. Despite our company's extensive advertising in magazines during**

**the past year, sales of our home appliances declined. Therefore, to boost company profits, we**

**should now switch to advertisements featuring a distinctive song."**

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| conclusion |

**"The surface of a section of Route 101, paved two years ago by McAdam Road Builders, is**

**now badly cracked and marred by dangerous potholes. In another part of the state, a section**

**of Route 66, paved by Appian Roadways more than four years ago, is still in good condition.**

**Appian Roadways has recently purchased state-of-the-art paving machinery, and it has hired a**

**new quality-control manager. Because of its superior work and commitment to quality, we**

**should contract with Appian Roadways rather than McAdam Road Builders to construct the**

**access roads for all our new shopping malls."**

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| Premise | Writer choosing a side (It holds true or not) | 1 |
| Argument | Explain why this position was selected | 1 |
|  | Support position with evidence and examples | 1 |
|  | Give your suggestion | 0 |
| Critical Analysis | Introduce and compare with other side of argument | 1 |
|  | Contrast: How they are different | 1 |
|  | More examples | 0 |
| Conclusion | Sum up all the points while giving a judgement | 1 |
|  | Connect back to the premise  while justifying all arguments made | 1 |
| Length | 3 or 4 paragraphs | 1 |
| 350-600 words |
| Structure | premise | 1 |
| Body |
| conclusion |

**"There is now evidence that the relaxed manner of living in small towns promotes better health**

**and greater longevity than does the hectic pace of life in big cities. Businesses in the small**

**town of Leeville report fewer days of sick leave taken by individual workers than do businesses**

**in the nearby large city of Mason City. Furthermore, Leeville has only one physician for its one**

**thousand residents, but in Mason City the proportion of physicians to residents is five times as**

**high. And the average age of Leeville residents is significantly higher than that of Mason City**

**residents. These findings suggest that people seeking longer and healthier lives should**

**consider moving to small communities."**

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**"Several factors indicate that radio station KNOW should shift its programming from**

**rock-and-roll music to a continuous news format. Consider, for example, the number of older**

**people in our listening area has increased dramatically, while the total number of our listeners**

**has recently declined. Also, music stores in our area report decreased sales of recorded music.**

**Finally, continuous news stations in neighboring cities have been very successful, and a**

**survey taken just before the recent election shows that local citizens are interested in**

**becoming better informed about politics."**

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**"According to a government report, last year the city of Dillton reduced its corporate tax rate by**

**15 percent; at the same time, it began offering relocation grants and favorable rates on city**

**utilities to any company that would relocate to Dillton. Within 18 months, two manufacturing**

**companies moved to Dillton, where they employ a total of 300 people. Therefore, the fastest**

**way for Beauville to stimulate economic development and hence reduce unemployment is to**

**provide tax incentives and other financial inducements that encourage private companies to**

**relocate here."**

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**"At nearby Green Mountain College, which has more business courses and more job**

**counselors than does Mira Vista College, 90 percent of last year's graduating seniors had job**

**offers from prospective employers. But at Mira Vista College last year, only 70 percent of the**

**seniors who informed the placement office that they would be seeking employment had found**

**full-time jobs within three months after graduation, and only half of these graduates were**

**employed in their major field of study. To help Mira Vista's graduates find employment, we**

**must offer more courses in business and computer technology and hire additional job**

**counselors to help students with their resumés and interviewing skills."**

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**"When the neighboring town of Williamsville adopted a curfew four months ago that made it**

**illegal for persons under the age of 18 to loiter or idle in public places after 10 p.m., youth crime**

**in Williamsville dropped by 27 percent during curfew hours. In Williamsville's town square, the**

**area where its citizens were once most outraged at the high crime rate, not a single crime has**

**been reported since the curfew was introduced. Therefore, to help reduce its own rising crime**

**rate, the town of Dalton should adopt the same kind of curfew. A curfew that keeps young**

**people at home late at night will surely control juvenile delinquency and protect minors from**

**becoming victims of crime."**

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**"To serve the housing needs of our students, Buckingham College should build a new**

**dormitory. Buckingham's enrollment is growing and, based on current trends, should double**

**over the next fifty years, thus making existing dormitories inadequate. Moreover, the average**

**rent for an apartment in our town has increased in recent years. Consequently, students will**

**find it increasingly difficult to afford off-campus housing. Finally, an attractive new dormitory**

**would make prospective students more likely to enroll at Buckingham."**

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**"When XYZ lays off employees, it pays Delany Personnel Firm to offer those employees**

**assistance in creating resumés and developing interviewing skills, if they so desire. Laid-off**

**employees have benefited greatly from Delany's services: last year those who used Delany**

**found jobs much more quickly than did those who did not. Recently, it has been proposed that**

**we use the less-expensive Walsh Personnel Firm in place of Delany. This would be a mistake**

**because eight years ago, when XYZ was using Walsh, only half of the workers we laid off at**

**that time found jobs within a year. Moreover, Delany is clearly superior, as evidenced by its**

**bigger staff and larger number of branch offices. After all, last year Delany's clients took an**

**average of six months to find jobs, whereas Walsh's clients took nine."**

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**"To combat the recently reported dramatic rise in cheating among college and university**

**students, these institutions should adopt honor codes similar to Groveton's, which calls for**

**students to agree not to cheat in their academic endeavors and to notify a faculty member if**

**they suspect that others have cheated. Groveton's honor code replaced an old-fashioned**

**system in which students were closely monitored by teachers and an average of thirty cases of**

**cheating per year were reported. The honor code has proven far more successful: in the first**

**year it was in place, students reported twenty-one cases of cheating; five years later, this**

**figure had dropped to fourteen. Moreover, in a recent survey conducted by the Groveton honor**

**council, a majority of students said that they would be less likely to cheat with an honor code in**

**place than without."**

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