

GMAT Analytical Writing

This section does not contain questions like the other three sections. Instead, you will be presented with a written argument. Your job is to critically analyze the validity of the argument and then write an analysis of the argument. The analysis should be an assessment of the reasoning used in the argument; you do not need to express your personal opinions. You have 30 minutes to complete the Analytical Writing section.

Question #1

Many experts agree that reading can reduce stress and ease tension in muscles. Recently, two new libraries opened in the tri-county area. Consequently, the hospitals in the area should see a reduction in patients seeking treatment for heart attacks and strokes. To ensure that Lavender Hospital is not overstaffed, we should immediately reduce the number of emergency nurses at the hospital and allocate payroll savings to the radiology department, which desperately needs funds for new equipment.

Write a critique of the above argument within 30 minutes.

Question #2

Lick It Up Ice Cream began advertising in the local newspaper last month and saw its business increase by 15 percent over previous month's totals. This rise in sales proves that newspaper advertising still works as well as it used to and can be used to make any food service company more profitable.

Write a critique of the above argument within 30 minutes.

#1 and #2 Answer: There is no single correct answer or critique for either [argument](#).

However, each critique should 1.) restate a brief summary of the argument; 2.) analyze the use of [reasoning](#) and [evidence](#) in the argument; 3.) identify potential [counterarguments](#), alternative explanations or questionable assumptions; and 4.) identify evidence that could have been used to strengthen the argument; 5.) provide a conclusion that sums up your critique. Check over what you have written to see if you have accomplished all five of these goals.