47. /5

The reading presents three reasons why pterosaurs should not be capable of powered flight, while the lecture raises serious doubts against it by pointing out pterosaurs have fur, they are light weighted and that they use four legs to push off the ground.

The speaker starts by giving the fact the according to recent studies, pterosaurs actually have dense hair covering its whole body, which is very much like fur. The presence of fur indicates that pterosaurs should be warm-blooded because this characteristic have only been found among warm-blooded animals. With fur all over their body, animals would be able to maintain high temperature during cold days and therefore pterosaurs should be able to supply enough energy needed for powered flight.

Furthermore, the speaker disagrees that pterosaurs are very heavy. She argues that even though they are big, fossils suggest they have special atomic structure that make them unusually light weight. Not like most animals, their bones are hollow which greatly reduces their totally body weight. As a result, with their big bone frame, they can still flap their wings fast enough to stay aloft for any length of time and acquire powered flight.

Finally, the speaker admits that if pterosaurs use two legs to push off, they would fail to fly. But then she keeps on indicating that pterosaurs may use four legs to push up. No like birds who use only the two back limps to walk, pterosaurs use all their four legs to walk. Regarding some modern birds who also use four legs to walk, they should use four legs to push off the ground. In this case, with the use of all their strong and powerful muscles, they would have no trouble running fast or jumping high enough to take off.