

GRE Issue Sample Essay

Discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement, and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

1. Issue

The use of nuclear energy is essential to combat climate change."

2. Issue

"Strict gun control laws are necessary to reduce gun violence."

3. Issue

"The death penalty should be abolished worldwide."

4. Issue

"Education should be tailored to individual learning styles."

5. Issue

"Traditional medicine is just as valid as modern medicine."

6. Issue

"The government should provide a guaranteed minimum income to all citizens."

7. Issue

"Immigration strengthens, rather than weakens, a nation's economy."

8. Issue

"Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) are necessary to feed the growing population."

9. Issue

"Animal testing is essential for medical and scientific advancements."

10. Issue

"The legal drinking age should be lowered to 18."

GRE Argument Sample Essay

1. Argument

The emergence of the online "blogosphere" and social media has significantly weakened the quality of political discourse in the United States. Reason: When anyone can publish political opinions easily, standards for covering news and political topics will inevitably decline.

Write a response in which you examine your own position on the statement. Explore the extent to which you either agree or disagree with it, and support your reasoning with evidence and/or examples. Be sure to reflect on ways in which the statement might or might not be true, and how this informs your thinking on the subject.

2. Argument

"Five years ago, at a time when we had difficulties in obtaining reliable supplies of high-quality wool fabric, we discontinued production of our alpaca overcoat. 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 increased 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."

Write a response in which you discuss what specific evidence is needed to evaluate the argument and explain how the evidence would weaken or strengthen the argument.

3. Argument

“Homes in the northeastern United States, where winters are typically cold, have traditionally used oil as their major fuel for heating. Last year that region experienced twenty days with below-average temperatures, and local weather forecasters throughout the region predict that this weather pattern will continue for several more years. Furthermore, many new homes have been built in this region during the past year. Based on these developments, we predict a large increase in the demand for heating oil. Therefore, we recommend investment in Consolidated Industries, one of whose major business operations is the retail sale of home heating oil.”

Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.

4. Argument

Traditional cheese curds are currently our best-selling product in the store. Therefore, we will be introducing three new cheese curd flavours. These flavours are sure to become popular within a few weeks after they are released. We currently offer deep-fried cheese curds, which are the second most popular item we offer. These new cheese curd flavours will be replacing the deep-fried cheese curds as the non-fried cheese curds sell more anyway.

Write a response in which you examine the unstated assumptions of the argument above and explain how the argument depends on the assumptions and what the implications are if the assumptions prove unwarranted.

5. Argument

"Last year the local television-news program In Focus reported in its annual car-and-truck safety survey that over the course of the last ten years United Motors vehicles were involved in at least thirty percent fewer fatal accidents to drivers than vehicles built by any other single manufacturer. Now United is developing a one-of-a-kind computerized crash warning system for all its trucks. Clearly, anyone concerned with safety who is in the market for a new truck this year should buy a United Motors truck."

Write a response in which you discuss what specific evidence is needed to evaluate the argument and explain how the evidence would weaken or strengthen the argument.