

Analyze an Argument

Tema preuzeta sa: https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/analytical_writing/argument/pool

The following appeared in a memo from a vice president of Quiot Manufacturing.

"During the past year, Quiot Manufacturing had 30 percent more on-the-job accidents than at the nearby Panoply Industries plant, where the work shifts are one hour shorter than ours. Experts say that significant contributing factors in many on-the-job accidents are fatigue and sleep deprivation among workers. Therefore, to reduce the number of on-the-job accidents at Quiot and thereby increase productivity, we should shorten each of our three work shifts by one hour so that employees will get adequate amounts of sleep."

Write a response in which you examine the stated and/or unstated assumptions of the argument. Be sure to explain how the argument depends on these assumptions and what the implications are for the argument if the assumptions prove unwarranted.

Author says that Quiot Manufacturing had 30 percent more on-the-job accidents than at the nearby Panoply Industries plant and implies that the reason is longer work shifts. Employees at Panoply Industries plant are working in one hour shorter shifts than those at Quiot Manufacturing. The arguer provides the assumption that fatigue and insufficient sleep are major causes of on-the-job accidents. This assumption leads the arguer to conclude that the employees will utilize the extra hour for getting an adequate amount of sleep, thereby reducing the chances of on-the-job accidents. Before making a conclusion like that, there are few other things that need to be taken into consideration.

First of all, how many employees are in Quiot Manufacturing and how many in Panoply Industries plant? If Quiot Manufacturing is employing twice as much people as Panoply Industries, then having just 30 percent more on-the-job accidents is fine. If that number is "per person", there are few other things. There is nothing about nature of the work being carried out in Quiot Manufacturing and Panoply Industries. Maybe work at Panoply is a lot less risky or is largely automated. Also, maybe they have better machines or employees are much better trained. Those are all factors that we know nothing about, and without them it's not possible to make conclusion that fatigue and sleep deprivation are the only reasons for more on-the-job accidents.

On the other hand, even if the working conditions of Quiot Manufacturing and Panoply Industries are comparable, there is no obvious connection between sleep deprivation and on-the-site accidents. Arguer hasn't presented any evidence about that. There is no guarantee that one hour saved by shorter working shifts will be utilized by workers for sleeping. Maybe it would be more efficient to split that hour into chunks and obligate all workers to make breaks. That way, they would be able to focus better.

Another very important thing is that productivity of a company is dependent on various factors. On-the-job accidents are probably one of the least likely to affect productivity. Productivity of a company can be

increased by training the workers or by buying better tools and equipment, but hardly by decreasing number of on-the-job accidents. So, relating productivity to on-the-job accidents is highly unreasonable assumption.

Finally, the recommendation made by arguer is not justified without evidence that proves the link between fatigue, sleep deprivation and on-the-job accidents and, additionally, evidence that proves that additional hour provided by shortening the work shifts will be utilized by the workers for sleeping.

Analyze an Issue

Tema preuzeta sa: https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/analytical_writing/issue/pool

Universities should require every student to take a variety of courses outside the student's field of study.

Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.

As we, Serbians, would say: "You are worth as much as you know". Being highly educated is always a plus, but knowing stuff even outside of your field of study is even bigger plus. Knowing a thing or two about how car works will make you a bit better driver and make your car last a bit longer. Knowing a thing or two about economics will save you some money from getting wasted. Knowing a thing or two about first aid can save your or life of someone you love.

The same principals apply to every other thing. Maybe some academic knowledge will not save someone's life, but it will definitely make you worth more and truly educated. Also, people just love when someone has wide area of knowledge. Even more important thing is that knowing stuff outside your field of study will expand your horizons. You will be able to assess the situation from different perspectives, thus make better and smarter decisions. That can make you a better professional and be a big impact in your career.

Bearing all this in mind, I think that it is obvious that gaining knowledge about various disciplines is of a great advantage as it helps you to be more learned and educated. Some students are aware of that, and they do not need to be forced to take courses outside their field of study, they will learn a lot of things without that. For the others, requirements like that wouldn't be something they would be thrilled about, but those requirements would serve a greater good. Spreading education is a way to go if we want to make progress as a kind. Wider horizons make more understanding and tolerance.