**Evaluating Arguments and Evidence**

Example of an evaluation:

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| While1 Chen (2000) offers a convincing2 argument that migrant workers have experienced significant financial benefits, it appears3 that one possible weakness4 in the argument is that social issues such as the consequences of families being separated are not addressed in the consideration of the cost-benefits. In contrast5, it is possible to argue6 that Yu (2009) presents a more convincing analysis7 due to incorporating a focus on the social consequences of economic migration. |

Note in the example provided above that an evaluation is not a personal opinion and therefore does not include the use of personal pronouns. In contrast, the evaluation attempts to assess the strengths and weakness in arguments and/or evidence by using cautious language, which is illustrated below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * X | argue  state  maintain  propose  conclude | that … | However,  In contrast  On the other hand,  Conversely, | one alternative | conclusion  interpretation  argument | might  may  could | be that … |

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| * Yet another | interpretation  conclusion  argument  consideration | could be that ……  is that …… | This arises as a consequence of ……  This is due to ……  This is a result of …… |

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| * One possible | weakness  limitation  difficulty  problem  criticism | of the  with | evidence  argument  evaluation  conclusion | might  may  could | be that …… |

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| * This leads to another | possible  probably | alternative | interpretation  evaluation  conclusion | that …… |

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| * When | considering  evaluating  analysing | the | conclusion  argument  proposal | of X, it | is possible  might be  may be  could be | that …… | In contrast,  Alternatively, |

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| An alternative   * One different   One contrasting | interpretation  evaluation  conclusion | might  may  could | be that …… |

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| * As result of | the  this  these | weakness  limitation  problem(s)  difficulty | a  one  another | alternative  contrasting | argument  conclusion  evaluation  interpretation | is that ……  could be that …… |

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| * While the | evidence  argument  conclusion | offered  suggested  proposed | by X is that ……. One alternative | might  may  could | be that …… |

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| * X | appears  seems | to | believe  suggest  conclude  argue | that …… | However,  Conversely,  Alternatively,  In contrast, |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * While X | argues  maintains  proposes  suggests  states | that …, it | appears  seems | that an alternative | conclusion  argument  interpretation  evaluation | is possible.  is more likely. |

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|  | As a result of  Due to | the  this | weakness  limitation  short coming | one alternative | interpretation  conclusion  argument | might be  may be  could be  seems to be | that …… |

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|  | As a consequence,  Therefore, | the | evidence  definition  reason  conclusion | offered  proposed  suggested  presented | by X | is  appears to  seems to  might  may | be too | vague  narrow  limited  broad  general | to justify.  to support. |

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| * While X | proposed  argues  states  maintains  suggests | that ……, Y | offers  suggests  proposes | an alternative | interpretation  conclusion  argument |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * It | seems to  appears to  might  may | be that the | | argument  conclusion  proposal  suggestion  interpretation | offered  proposed  maintained  presented | by Y is | stronger  weaker  more convincing  more extensive |
| than X due to …… | | |

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|  | As a result of  Due to | weakness  limitation | of the | interpretation  conclusion  argument  evaluation  definition | provided  offered  proposed  suggested | by Y, …… |

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|  | Therefore,  Thus,  As a consequence,  In conclusion, | the | interpretation  conclusion  argument  evaluation  definition  solution | provided  offered  proposed  suggested  maintained | by X is | weaker  stronger  more convincing  less convincing  more limited | than that of Y. |