**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.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * X
 | arguestatemaintainproposeconclude | that … | However,In contrastOn the other hand,Conversely, | one alternative | conclusioninterpretationargument | mightmaycould | be that … |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * Yet another
 | interpretationconclusionargumentconsideration | 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
 | weaknesslimitationdifficultyproblemcriticism | of thewith | evidenceargumentevaluationconclusion | mightmaycould | be that …… |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * This leads to another
 | possibleprobably | alternative | interpretationevaluationconclusion | that …… |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * When
 | consideringevaluatinganalysing | the | conclusionargumentproposal | of X, it | is possiblemight bemay becould be | that …… | In contrast,Alternatively, |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| An alternative* One different

One contrasting | interpretationevaluationconclusion | mightmaycould | be that …… |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * As result of
 | thethisthese | weaknesslimitationproblem(s)difficulty | aoneanother | alternativecontrasting | argumentconclusionevaluationinterpretation | is that ……could be that …… |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * While the
 | evidenceargumentconclusion | offeredsuggestedproposed | by X is that ……. One alternative | mightmaycould | be that …… |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * X
 | appearsseems | to | believesuggestconcludeargue | that …… | However,Conversely,Alternatively,In contrast, |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * While X
 | arguesmaintainsproposessuggestsstates | that …, it | appearsseems | that an alternative | conclusionargumentinterpretationevaluation | is possible.is more likely. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | As a result ofDue to | thethis | weaknesslimitationshort coming | one alternative | interpretationconclusionargument | might bemay becould beseems to be | that …… |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | As a consequence,Therefore, | the | evidencedefinitionreasonconclusion | offeredproposedsuggestedpresented | by X | isappears toseems tomightmay | be too | vaguenarrowlimitedbroadgeneral | to justify.to support. |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * While X
 | proposedarguesstatesmaintainssuggests | that ……, Y | offerssuggestsproposes | an alternative | interpretationconclusionargument |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| * It
 | seems toappears tomightmay | be that the | argumentconclusionproposalsuggestioninterpretation | offeredproposedmaintainedpresented | by Y is | strongerweakermore convincingmore extensive |
|  than X due to …… |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | As a result ofDue to | weaknesslimitation | of the | interpretationconclusionargumentevaluationdefinition | providedofferedproposedsuggested | by Y, …… |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Therefore,Thus,As a consequence,In conclusion, | the | interpretationconclusionargumentevaluationdefinitionsolution | providedofferedproposedsuggestedmaintained | by X is | weakerstrongermore convincingless convincingmore limited | than that of Y. |