

Mission GRE

Argument Section

Please see the comments after every paragraph. Typos/grammatical errors are highlighted in red.

Fifteen years ago, Omega University implemented a new procedure that encouraged students to evaluate the teaching effectiveness of all their professors. Since that time, Omega professors have begun to assign higher grades in their classes, and overall student grade averages at Omega have risen by thirty percent. Potential employers apparently believe the grades at Omega are inflated; this would explain why Omega graduates have not been as successful at getting jobs as have graduates from nearby Alpha University. To enable its graduates to secure better jobs, Omega University should now terminate student evaluation of professors.

The benefits of teaching assessments are many. Through assessments, teachers are able to get a student's perspective on style and substance. The feedback can be more forthright and targeted because of the anonymous nature of such assessments. Theoretically, teachers use this information to better their approach as well as determine the tools and resources that are the most effective for their purposes. If the Dean at Omega is correct, the assessments are not encouraging the appropriate response, rather creating an environment seeking popularity as opposed to effectiveness. If he is correct about the connection between assessments and post graduation employment, then of course a change needs to be made to stop grade inflation and improve employment rates.

Comment 1: Good start. However, please note that the purpose of the argument section is to check your logical reasoning and not your writing skills. Always, think before writing, does the conclusion follow from the evidence? If not, then what points do you think are illogical and then mention those points. Always, number your points. For example- Firstly...Secondly..etc. Here is a rough sketch.

Thought Process:

Conclusion: "Omega University should terminate student evaluation of professors".

Evidence: "As mentioned in the argument section"

Opening line: "In this memo, the author claims that Omega University should terminate student evaluation of professors. However, I found that this conclusion is groundless and unconvincing for the readers, as there seems to be no correlation between the author's conclusion and his evidence."

However, it is not clear from the Dean's reasoning that the declining success of Omega graduates is tied to employers declining confidence in grade averages. The assessments very well may be leading to grade inflation, or the assessments may be producing the desired results. The assessments could be fostering an improvement in the teaching methodology. This, in turn, could be spurring students to a higher level of performance resulting in higher grades.

Comment 2: Very good. Well written.

Additionally, the Dean does not appear to have any substantiating information for his premise that potential employers believe the Omega grades are inflated. Omega graduates may be in competition with graduates from other institutions that have better, more in depth or broader program options. Omega, could, in fact, be producing inferior graduates. The appearance of causal timing between student assessments and grade inflation with declining post graduate employment may be circumstantial. The dean should attempt to verify the feelings of potential employers to verify his theory.

Comment 3: Good.

Lastly, the option to completely axe student evaluations may be extreme. As mentioned previously, assessments can be greatly beneficial. If the assessments have truly resulted in grade inflation, then the dean should first attempt to temper this result. A policy dictating grading on a strict curve could do this. Or, the school could adopt policies that help to validate the veracity of the grades, a departmental review of the grades distributed. Regardless, the reasoning by the dean is too flawed to rely upon.

Comment 4: Please note that argument section tests your logical reasoning ability. Suggesting what should be done or what can be done is out of scope. Always use “lack of information” in the argument section to support your points.

Here are some points to negate the conclusion:

1. Alpha University may be in a better economical environment and it would be easy for the university students there to find jobs.
2. Omega University may be just an arts school, while Alpha University is a technological school.

OVERALL COMMENTS

Content:	Good
Organization:	Average
Language:	Good
Mechanics:	Good
Typos:	Very Less

Expected Score: 5/6

WRITING SECTION SCORE
ISSUE Section=4.5/6
ARGUMENT Section=5/6
AVERAGE=4.75/6
FINAL SCORE (after rounding)=5/6