

LOR Quiz #1 Exemplars

1. Identify the author's argument, main idea, or thesis.

1st Exemplar: "The author's argument is that the president's plan to turn the international space station into a commercially run venture will not turn out to be a success, because there are many things that will need to be 'fixed' before they can even start on this, like spending billions of dollars to start it up. The plan to privatize the station is likely to run into a wall of opposition."

2nd Exemplar: "The main argument of the author is that the Trump administration wishes to turn the International Space Station into a private industry. There are many who oppose this decision however, which is the main idea of later paragraphs. The author takes a more objective or informational stance on the topic since he does not appear to choose or support a side."

2. Explain the author's line of reasoning by identifying the claims used to build the argument and the connections between them.

1st Exemplar: "To begin the LOR the author started out by explaining how the White House is planning to end their funding of the ISS after 2024. However, the author continued, although direct federal support will diminish, the American government will not fully abandon the ISS. Instead, they will look to privatization to maintain it. Following this claim, the author stated that the administration's decision to privatize will likely be opposed due to the government's billions of dollars invested in the ISS' operation. Statements are made by Senator Ted Cruz to add onto this argument, which connects the previous claim to how people are opposing this transition. After viewpoints of critics were described, the LOR turns toward what private corporations would obtain ownership of the ISS. He also added on by saying how details of the transition to privatization were very little. To wrap up the article, the author states that it would be another bold step if America goes through with this privatization transition."

2nd Exemplar: "First the article sets up the paper by saying that it does not intend to abandon the orbiting laboratory altogether. This helps with the transition of LOR, because it will provide an insight that there is more to come. It transitions into the claim that 'NASA will expand international/commercial partnerships over the next seven years...' The LOR keeps flowing into the plan of the privatizing of the station and discusses some oppositions to the case. It takes claims from Senator Ted Cruz and his view on the idea. It discussed some limitations with the claim from Frank Slazer who says 'the plan also could prove sticky with the stations international partners'. Another claim was made that says 'It's inherently always going to be an international construct that requires US government involvement...' The LOR was very significant here because it just easily flowed from point to point, discussing limitations. Another very bold statement is that 'handing over a rare national asset to commercial enterprises could have disastrous consequences for American leadership in space...' It mentions how other presidents have done great things about/and with space. The last statement claim says "It didn't immediately propose what private enterprise might do with the station or what companies might take it over. All of the claims flowed very consistently to create a great LOR. It began with the topic, went from point to point. The points were all connected with discussing limitations."

3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the evidence the author uses to support the claims made in the argument.

1st Exemplar: “The author used very effective claims while providing information on, and supporting both sides of the argument. For the side saying that this transition won’t work, the author provided quotes from the Senator. Senator Ted Cruz is very credible and his quote/opinion was very effective because he is of such high importance in the government. He also had a quote from Andrew Rush, the chief executive of Made In Space. He is credible because he specializes in space research and knowledge, and his quote was relevant because it’s important to hear from the people how dedicate their lives to space and are being affected. To support the counterclaim, the author included quotes from The White House. The White House quotes were relevant because it’s important to hear from those who propose the decision and why they want it implemented. The White House quotes were also credible because they came straight from those making the controversial decision.”

2nd Exemplar: “The author’s selection of evidence seems very credible, coming from internal NASA reports, White House documents and quotes from well-informed individuals. He uses a document from NASA to provide context for the issue. To support his claims, he uses quotes from Ted Cruz, which may not be the most credible because of political standings affecting his views as a senator. However, Davenport also utilizes quotes from Andrew Rush, Frank Slazer, and Mark Mulqueen, who all work in the space industry and are involved in the US. These individuals are well-informed, but may have a vested interest due to the possibility of losing their jobs if private enterprise took over the ISS. Overall, Davenport uses somewhat questionable evidence to support his claims due to the possible bias his sources may have had.”