**English 2E**

**Toulmin Practice**

1. People should become vegetarians because vegetarianism is a healthy choice since it eliminates the cholesterol from red meat.

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1. Since slaughtering animals for food is cruel, people should become vegetarians.

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1. *Million Dollar Baby* won several Academy Awards. Since world-renowned movie experts choose these awards, they are evidence of a movie’s greatness. Therefore, *Million Dollar Baby* is an excellent film.

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1. Steve bought apple juice for himself, so he must like apple juice.

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1. Harry was born in Bermuda, so Harry must be a British subject.

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1. Drug abuse is a serious problem in the United States. As long as drugs are manufactured in Latin America, they will be smuggled into the United States, and drug abuse will continue. Therefore, the United States must help destroy drug production in Latin America.

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1. Decreasing pollution is a healthy choice for all living things. Taxing drivers provides an incentive for drivers to use cars less and seek alternatives to driving. In one study, approximately 57% of people surveyed said they would use public transportation instead of a car if it would save them $1000 a year. Drivers should be taxed for driving their cars to decrease pollution.

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1. When teachers “teach to the test,” students lose the ability to think deeply and critically about subjects. Faced with increasing pressure to help students succeed on the ACT, teachers are modifying lesson plans to only teach the content on the test. Unfortunately, the content of these tests often reflects lower-level thinking, the type of thinking taught by “drill and kill” teaching methods. Teachers focus on making sure the students can regurgitate information rather than making sure they understand it. This type of teaching does not promote critical thinking.

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1. Teachers who teach to the test are focused only on the skills measured by the tests. These skills usually represent lower-level thinking, and they are often not applicable outside of the educational setting. For example, the type of grammar questions asked by the ACT do not necessarily translate into grammatically correct writing, a skill necessary for real life. Also, students are not asked to explain why a sentence is correct or incorrect; they simply must make the correction and move on. When teachers focus on teaching for these type of questions, they don’t get students to think deeply about the material. The focus is just on covering the material. Therefore, “teaching to the test” hurts students’ ability to think critically and deeply.

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