

ARQ 10 Passage

Evaluate for rival causes and missing information.

According to a recent study, one of the major causes of delinquent behavior during teenage years is low self-esteem in adolescents. Researchers studied over 500 children from the Nashville, Tennessee Adolescent Potential study, which has been examining the causes of delinquent behavior. The adolescents in the study were interviewed while in the ninth grade. They completed the **McRoberts Self-Esteem test**, and then were asked how often they participated in various kinds of crimes. The researchers found that the worse the kids felt about themselves, the more likely they were to engage in delinquent acts. Also, the researchers found that the children whose self-esteem scores increased over the next two years also tended to show a decrease in delinquent behavior. **Such research shows the need for teachers to attend to an adolescent's self-esteem if they are to reduce the amount of juvenile crime.**

ARQ 11 passage:

Evaluate for vague or inappropriate statistics and missing information.

(There is at least one thing wrong with each statistical claim)

Jennifer: Attorneys are really ripping off the insurance companies. I read that last year attorneys specializing in malpractice cases averaged over \$200,000 in the cases that they won.

Anthony: Well, they deserve that money. Doctors are getting more and more careless. In the last three years, the number of patients suing doctors for eye surgery malpractice has increased by 25 percent.

Jennifer: Yeah, it's scary what's happening to the medical profession. I read somewhere that almost 3 out of 4 people in the country know someone who has sued a doctor; I sure wouldn't want to be a doctor if I had a 75 percent chance of being sued for malpractice.

Anthony: You know, you're right, maybe we should be worried more about losing good doctors because of the high insurance costs. My doctor told me that his insurance rates have increased by 20 percent over the last two years.

Jennifer: You've got a good point. Come to think of it, I saw a petition to ban **contingency fees*** for malpractice cases in the Philadelphia Gazette signed by 200 doctors.

Anthony: You know, Jennifer, I think I'm now convinced that the contingency fee for malpractice cases is a mistake; after all, 60 percent of the statistics that we have cited favor that conclusion.

* **contingency fees:** A lawyer proposes to sue for you and promises not to charge you a fee unless you win your suit. The lawyer then takes a significant percentage of your award as the fee.