R&W 2- READING SKILL: Inference from the author's point of view and possible bias

TOPIC: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch – Fact or Fear?

Instructions:

1. For each paragraph, decide if the author uses strong evidence or weak evidence.
2. Choose the clue words that show certainty (strong evidence) or uncertainty (weak evidence).

Paragraph 1 – ----------Evidence

Some scientists hypothesize that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch might be much larger than earlier believed. It may cover an area almost twice the size of Texas, but this can't be confirmed without further research. Others estimate that the patch contains 1.8 trillion pieces of plastic. However, because ocean currents constantly move debris, these numbers might be exaggerated.

Strong evidence :

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Weak evidence:

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Paragraph 2 – ---------- Evidence

According to a 2018 study published by Scientific Reports, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch contains at least 79,000 metric tons of plastic waste. "This is a massive environmental challenge that will take decades to solve," said Dr. Laurent Lebreton, a leading researcher on the project. The study was based on satellite images and direct sampling from ships.

Strong evidence :

_____

Weak evidence:

_____

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Paragraph 3 – ----------Evidence

Some environmental groups claim the patch is "destroying marine life at an alarming rate," but they provide no clear data to support this. They argue it would likely kill thousands of animals each year, yet they do not cite specific studies. Critics say these statements might be motivated by a desire to raise more donations for their campaigns.

Strong evidence :

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Weak evidence:

_____

Paragraph 4 – ..... Evidence

The Ocean Cleanup organization reports that the patch is mainly made up of microplastics, which are harmful to fish, seabirds, and even humans. "We have documented over 700 marine species affected by plastic ingestion or entanglement," states the United Nations Environment Programme. This conclusion is supported by photographs, necropsy reports, and laboratory studies.

Strong evidence :

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Weak evidence:

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Paragraph 5 – ..... Evidence

It is hypothesized that the Great Pacific Garbage Patch may even influence climate change by affecting plankton populations, which help absorb carbon dioxide. However, this link can't be confirmed yet, and more experiments would be needed to prove it.

Strong evidence :

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Weak evidence:

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