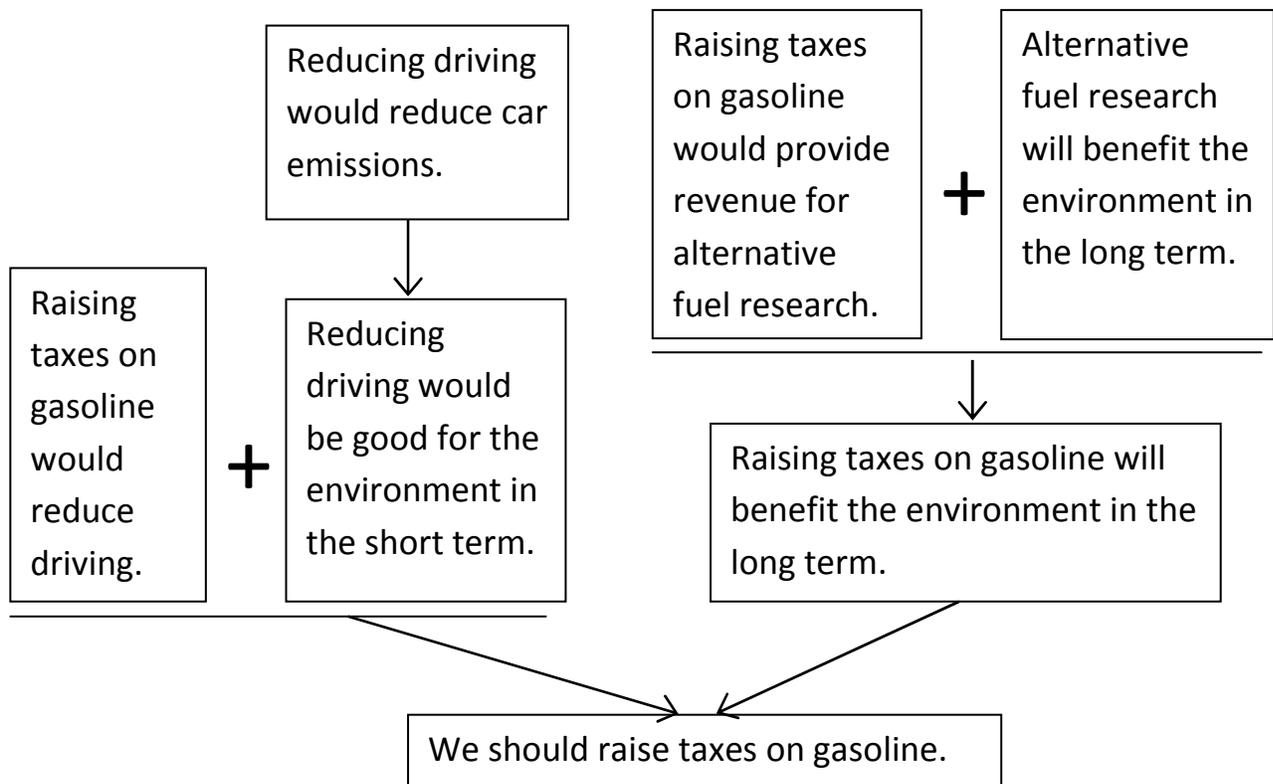


Gauge Your Understanding Exercises

Directions: Write brief answers to the following questions and compare your responses to mine.

1. What are independent reasons?

2. Complete the passage for the argument diagrammed below by supplying appropriate expressions to fill in the blanks.



“We should raise taxes on gasoline. This is because raising taxes on gasoline would reduce driving _____¹ reducing driving would be good for the environment in the short term _____² reducing driving would reduce car emissions. _____³ raising taxes on gasoline would provide revenue for alternative fuel research _____⁴ alternative fuel research will benefit the environment in the long term _____⁵ raising taxes on gasoline will benefit the environment in the long term.”

3. Diagram the argument in the following passage using the boxes below:

“Most working people need to drive to their place of employment. It follows that an increased gasoline tax will hurt working people, and we shouldn’t hurt working people so we shouldn’t raise the gasoline tax. In addition to this, increasing gasoline tax will raise the cost of consumer goods because most consumer goods are transported a fair distance to the stores.”

Most working people need to drive to their place of employment.

An increased gasoline tax will hurt working people

We shouldn’t hurt working people.

We shouldn’t raise the gasoline tax.

Increasing gasoline tax will raise the cost of consumer goods.

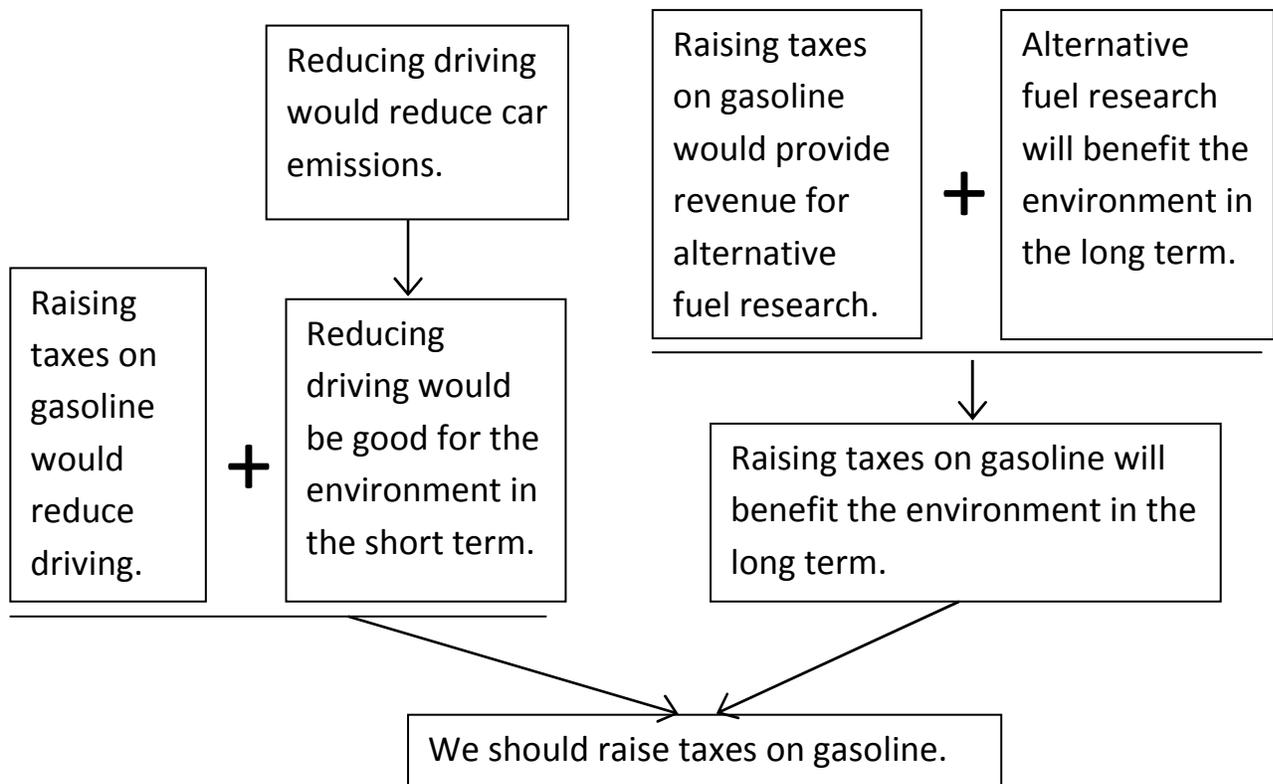
Most consumer goods are transported a fair distance to the stores.

My Responses

1. What are independent reasons?

Two or more ideas or groups of ideas are independent reasons in support of a conclusion if each idea or group of ideas is capable of supporting the conclusion on its own.

2. Complete the passage for the argument diagrammed below by supplying appropriate expressions to fill in the blanks.



“We should raise taxes on gasoline. This is because raising taxes on gasoline would reduce driving _____¹ reducing driving would be good for the environment in the short term _____² reducing driving would reduce car emissions. _____³ raising taxes on gasoline would provide revenue for alternative fuel research _____⁴ alternative fuel research will benefit the environment in the long term _____⁵ raising taxes on gasoline will benefit the environment in the long term.”

The first blank should contain an inference eraser expression, and because there is no contrast between the two ideas being connected, I'd use an inference eraser from the "And" family (e.g. "and," "moreover," "furthermore," "in addition").

The second blank should contain a reason indicator expression (e.g. "because" "since" "given that" "assuming that" "inasmuch as" "in view of the fact that" "the reason is that" "after all").

The third blank should contain a theme changer expression (e.g. "Besides," "Furthermore," "In addition to this," "As if that weren't enough," "Finally").

The fourth blank should contain an inference eraser expression, and because there is no contrast between the two ideas being connected, I'd use an inference eraser from the "And" family (e.g. "and," "moreover," "furthermore," "in addition")

The fifth blank should contain a conclusion indicator expression (e.g. "therefore" "thus" "consequently" "hence" "so" "this goes to show that" "it follows that" "as a result" "that's why" "which implies that" "which means that").

3. Diagram the argument in the following passage using the boxes below:

“Most working people need to drive to their place of employment. It follows that an increased gasoline tax will hurt working people, and we shouldn’t hurt working people so we shouldn’t raise the gasoline tax. In addition to this, increasing gasoline tax will raise the cost of consumer goods because most consumer goods are transported a fair distance to the stores.”

