

### Slanters Exercise (from Moore and Parker, *Critical Thinking*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed.)

Identify any slanters used in the following passages.

1. The key principle is 'responsible energy exploration.' Remember, it's NOT drilling for oil. It's responsible energy exploration.
2. Right. George Bush 'won' the election in 2000. Sure.
3. The obvious truth is that bilingual education has been a failure.
4. Before any more of my tax dollars go to the military, I'd like answers to some questions, such as why are we spending billions of dollars on weapons programs that don't work?
5. True, there's a little wear and tear on the car, but what are a few dents?
6. Okay, okay, so the car's got a few miles on it. Still, it may be the only Mustang in the whole country for that price.
7. Which is it George Bush lied about this time, whether he used cocaine, when he used cocaine, or how much cocaine he used?
8. National health care has the compassion of the IRS and the efficiency of the post office, all at Pentagon prices.
9. During World War II, the U.S. government resettled many people of Japanese descent in internment camps.
10. Clearly Antonin Scalia is the most corrupt Supreme Court justice in the history of the country.
11. The big money guys who have smuggled the Rancho Vecino development onto the November ballot will stop at nothing to have this town run just exactly as they want. The development will cause tremendous traffic suggestion on the east side of town, and it's perfectly clear that the number of houses built will overload the sewer system. Can the developers be stopped in their desire to wreck our town?
12. The country has witnessed an interlude of religious hysteria, encouraged and exploited by political quackery. The political cynicism of Republicans shocked the nation. But even more alarming is the enthusiasm of self-described 'pro-life' forces for using the power of the state to impose their obtuse moral distinctions on the rest of us. The Catholic Church and many Protestant evangelicals are acting as partisan political players in a very dangerous manner. Once they have mobilized zealots to their moral causes, they can expect others to fight back in the same blind, intolerant manner.

## **Satellite campus, pensions strap RPI**

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The report also shines a light on how colleges and universities can inflate the type of data that makes their finances appear more favorable. The Moody's report states that a strength of the school is its student selectivity rate, which increased to 39 percent, from 50 percent in 2007. Applications are up 8 percent. Financial analysts view an uptick in student applications and the ability to be more selective as a sign of institutional health.

However, the school has used a marketing company to boost the number of its applicants by sending out a generic fast-track application form, much like credit card companies send mass mailings to potential customers. The school sent out a "Candidate's Choice Application" to students around the country based on how well they scored on their SATs or their high school class ranking. More students apply, and more are rejected, which makes the colleges seem more competitive. Colleges say they use the companies to increase their applicant pool, but it can help boost their national ranking in the influential U.S. News and World Report publication and makes them appear to be more selective.

- Excerpt from "Satellite campus, pensions strap RPI", Times Union, August 17, 2011

## **Close scrutiny for RPI applicants**

The Aug. 17 story on the affirmation of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's credit rating contained erroneous information and assertions about the way RPI selects its entering classes.

All applicants are subjected to the same rigorous process through which decisions on admission are reached, including the completion of standardized tests and essays. The Candidates Choice Application was developed to streamline the application process, but applicants using it receive the same close scrutiny as other applicants, to ensure that each student we admit will have a high likelihood of success in a challenging curriculum.

Like hundreds of other colleges and universities -- including some of the most selective in the country -- RPI from time to time works with consultants to help expand outreach to talented students from around the globe.

Over the last decade, our average SAT scores have risen by 80 points, and we have enrolled record numbers of valedictorians, students ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school classes, women, underrepresented students of color and students from across the nation and the world. Through these strategic efforts, there is no doubt that RPI has become a stronger institution.

William N. Walker, Vice president Strategic Communications and External Relations, RPI

- Letter to the Editor, "Close scrutiny for RPI applicants", Times Union, August 26, 2011