

Solutions

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

- any three of: a qualifying word; a limiting clause; a modal verb; a subordinate structure carrying the exception

2.2

- a qualification limits the claim's scope; a hedge weakens the writer's commitment without limiting anything

2.3

(a)

- all cities under one million, where the effect is said to reverse

(b)

- it raises credibility, since the writer states where the claim fails

3.1 B

- it weakens commitment without excluding any case

3.2 B

- what is excluded is what makes it informative

3.3

(a)

- the audience is expert or hostile and will test the claim

(b)

- repeated qualification can leave the reader unsure what is being claimed, so the argument loses force even as it gains accuracy

3.4

- *Row A — Thesis (1)*. A defensible claim about **what the hedging achieves**, not that it exists. **Earns it:** “The speaker’s hedges are not retreats but boundary markers: by naming in advance every condition under which she would be wrong, she makes the surviving claim harder to attack than a bolder one would have been.” **Does not:** “The speaker uses qualifying language to make her argument seem more reasonable.” *Row B — Evidence and Commentary (0–4)*. Each qualifier needs to be read for **function**. “*Tends to*” concedes exceptions before an opponent can supply one. “*In most cases*” converts a universal claim, which one counter-example destroys, into a statistical one, which it does not. “*On the evidence we have*” makes the claim provisional on data rather than on conviction, so new evidence revises rather than refutes her. The clause “*that can afford to wait*” is the strongest qualification in the passage because it names

the condition on which the whole argument depends. The failure paragraph must be read as a **strategic concession**: presenting the counter-case herself denies it to an opponent and demonstrates that her claim already survives it. Listing the hedges without this analysis caps at 2. *Row C — Sophistication (1)*. Earned by holding the genuine tension — heavy qualification also costs force, and a listener may hear caution as weakness; the strongest responses weigh what the speaker gives up against what she buys, and situate the choice in the demands of her audience