The main idea of both the reading passage and the lecture is about a massive explosion in Russia. The author provides three hypotheses to describe this phenomenon due to the methane gas explosion. On the other hand, the professor thinks this phenomenon happened because of an asteroid struck. he not only refutes the author’s assessments but also asserts that none of the arguments proposed by the reading passage is convincing on account of reasons which will follow.

First, the reading passage brings up the idea that this explosion was not due to an asteroid struck the ground there because there are no rocks or material from an asteroid. However, the professor dismisses this idea due to the fact that these rocks may be divided into very small pieces. That is why the scientist cannot find them.

Second, the author holds the view that the deforested area is due to a methane explosion. On the other hand, the lecturer refutes this view and indicates that the asteroid impacted the ground caused the destroying forest. In other words, the trees are buried below the asteroid.

Finally, the author argues that this area has many rivers and lakes and these places are known for the high level of methane gas. The gas may be released and caused an explosion by a natural or human accident. However, the professor questioned this view by indicating the reason that a large amount of methane gas that could cause a massive explosion has not been in the area in the past or now. Also, no fire was reported in the forest due to the methane explosion.