**Write an essay on the following issue.**

**Claim:** The best test of an argument is its ability to convince someone with an opposing viewpoint.

**Reason:** Only by being forced to defend an idea against the doubts and contrasting views of others does one really discover the value of that idea.

The author of the prompt states that the best test of an argument is its ability to convince others with opposing notions and, only by defending an idea against qualms and misgivings can one decipher the values of that notion. In my opinion, the most useful way to evaluate an argument is to see if it can convince a broad range of individuals including people with different views.

To begin with, it is crucial for an argument to be able to convince people with various views and even persons who have not yet formed a view. Arguments should be sound and arguable by themselves since it is the primary quality that absorbs individuals with supporting and opposing mindsets. For example, many politicians when campaigning for an election are too worried about convincing people from the opposing party while they forget the whole concept of their arguments and mindsets, leading to lose votes from people related to their own party; since their arguments are not sound enough to support a broad range of people and with trying to absorb the support of one specific party, one can lose the patron of another.

Moreover, there are some sophists who can use equivocal comments and ambiguous language to convince people with contrasting notions; however, is it genuinely the best measure to evaluate an argument’s validity? There are, in addition, many dogmatic individuals with fixed mindsets that can never be convinced to accept views opposite from theirs. For instance, after showing detrimental repercussions of slavery and positive impacts of abrogating it, there are still some white supremacists who are not willing to accept contrasting opinions, so not only convincing dissidents does not seem the best test of an argument, but it also has serious drawbacks.

While I believe defending a notion against doubts can help to understand the importance of it, it is not the only way of discovering an idea’s significance. One major measure that can show the value of an idea is its applicability in different places at various times of history. Take democracy as an example, since the very idea of freedom has been regarded beneficial even sacred in the history and in the every corner of the world, one can find it as a valuable concept; in fact, the virtue of democracy is not limited to a special place or time. Moreover, many ideas can be proclaimed fruitful after applying them and observing their positive impacts; for instance, after using environmentally-friendly technologies, the unprecedented and advantageous impacts of it have been shown its value for all people in the world.

To sum up, I adopt this view that to test an argument, it should be able to absorb various views including opposite ones, and the values of ideas can be appreciated mainly by observing its broad applicability and positive results in different circumstances and not just by defending it against dissidents.

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