Scottish Independence

1. The news report is about the beginning of the “Say Yes” campaign led by the Scottish National Party. This group supports a yes vote on the referendum on whether Scotland should become independent.

2. Both sides may have to worry that voters will get bored or lose interest in the campaign if it lasts too long. A longer campaign might help the pro-independence side by giving them more time to convert voters to their opinion, since only 33 percent of those polled are in favor of independence. The pro-union side is in a strong position, with 57 percent against independence according to the polls, but their support might weaken as time goes on.

3. The Scottish National Party wants to keep the British pound as the currency, retain the monarchy, and quit NATO. Patrick Harvey of the Scottish Green Party is not in favor of keeping the monarchy. All of the groups share the goal of independence, but they disagree on what an independent Scotland would look like.

4. Students should state whether they think the campaign for Scottish independence will be successful and support their opinion with facts. Sample answer: I think the campaign will fail because polling data shows that 57 percent of those polled are opposed to independence. In addition, there are conflicts between the different pro-independence groups that might cause confusion and hurt their campaign.