

Review by  
Jaye Anne

## Teaching Paper Peer Review

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How to maybe get eaten by bears by Collins, Jonathan

### Introduction:

Does the author provide an interesting opening to the topic?

Yes, the opening and the paper in general is very interesting, thought provoking, and fun to read.

Could they improve it? Explain how.

I would flip the "Beginners guide to backpacking" and "Eaten by Bears" in your title. That way the topic is more clear and the humor comes second.

What is the author teaching?

Author is teaching the basics of backpacking.

Underline where you think the thesis is in the paper.

Done. It is in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph. Consider moving this close to the intro.

### Organization:

How is the information organized?

The information is organized in sections and paragraphs. This makes for an easy to read and well-organized paper.

Is it logical? Does it flow well?

Yes, this paper goes through logical sections of information and flows very well.

Does it stay on task or is there unneeded information? Explain.

There is a bit of side talk in the paper, but it is usually concise and doesn't longer too long.

### Support:

Explain specific ways they used facts or information to teach you about their topic.

The author talked specifically about brands, prices, and types of products needed to be successful in hiking.

Are there ways to improve this detail and description? Explain.

The descriptions of what could go wrong were very descriptive and I think you had really good balance in your paper. No improvements needed in this section.

### Conclusion:

Is there a clear conclusion? Explain.

There was not a clear conclusion. A simple paragraph wrapping up the topics discussed should be simple to include at the end.

### General:

Who would you think is the audience for this paper?

I think the audience of the paper was general for any "Homo sapien."

Do you understand all of the terms or ideas in the paper? If no, identify which are unclear.

There were a couple of terms and phrases I did not understand (see markings).

What is the best thing about their paper?

The humor/camp was great! I really liked it.

What are two things they could do to improve their paper? Be specific.

1. Get rid of the contractions!
2. Indent the list at the end.

Would you attempt the thing being taught after reading this paper? Why or why not?

No. I do not like the outdoors or bugs.

Jonathan

Collins

Reviewed by  
Kylie Anne

Deke

Course

## How to Maybe Get Eaten By Bears: A Beginner's Guide to Backpacking

We in modern society live a life of comfort and luxury. Our air is cooled and heated for us by machines, water is always at our fingertips, and food is readily available to anyone with a phone.

After millions of years struggling against the cruel hardships of nature, you'd think us homo sapiens would all have figured out that it's best to stay inside and enjoy our victory over those hardships. We've done it. We can sit in our sofas, comfortable atop the food chain.

But some of us are too stupid for that. Some of us are possessed with the totally idiotic idea that what we really need more of in our lives is places where ambulances can't reach us.

There's lots of things that can kill you out in the wilderness. Bears, hypothermia, snake bites, falling from high places, dehydration, and bears, to name a few. One hiker in Hong Kong was struck and killed by lightning this summer. But what kills most people who die backpacking is simple: Being unprepared.

To that end, I'm putting together this simple guide to help you figure out what you need to do and pack in order to maybe not get eaten by bears, in case you receive some kind of severe head trauma and wake up thinking that backpacking is a good idea.

Before you can really start planning what to bring, you need to figure out where you're going to hike, what type of backpacking you want to do. Maybe you want to do a months-long through-hike of a famous trail, or maybe you just want to head out into some random patch of wilderness and test your mettle against the hazards of the natural world for a weekend. If you're like me, what you really want to do is go hike up to places that other people won't see unless they're as stupid determined as you. Or maybe you just want to get away from all the stress of modern life and you've forgotten that your phone has a power button.

If you're going to hike in a desert or badlands or similar environment, you'll need to carry your own water, and lots of it, especially in the summer. Because of this, you'd have to be an idiot to go hiking there when you're first starting out. So for our first trip, me and my girlfriend chose the badlands in August.

### Part One: The Pack

The first piece of equipment you should shop for is a pack. Pack size is measured in liters, an estimate of how much gear the pack can carry by volume. I recommend a pack of between 50 - 65 liters for a beginner, because those will suffice for anything from a single overnight trip to a multi-week through hike. Expect to pay around \$350 for a new pack, maybe \$150 - \$250 for a used one.

I can't tell you which pack to buy because everyone's hips and shoulders are different, but I can tell you that if you're a woman, you probably want to shop for a woman's pack because they're fitted and sized differently, and vice versa for men. A visit to a sports shop is pretty essential at this point, because you need to actually try packs on to find one that works for you. REI carries a wide variety of brands and styles, and they have soft weights in the store to fill your pack with and give you an idea of what it will be like when it's packed.



## Part Two: Water and Shelter

Next, you need a tent. Lightweight backpacking tents are really expensive (around \$350). The first time we went backpacking, I just made a lean-to out of a tarp, some stakes, and a stick. I don't recommend it. Buy a decent tent, such as an MSR Hubba or Hubba Hubba (the two person variety). If you're wondering why you're like \$700 into this and you still haven't had any fun yet, buckle up, because your wallet isn't halfway done losing weight.

In most places you go backpacking, you need to be able to carry SOME water, but you can usually fill up regularly at streams and lakes. After remembering that streams and lakes are basically nature's sewer systems, you may decide to bring a water filter. This isn't necessary if you're the sort of person who enjoys explosive diarrhea, but for everyone else, I'd recommend a filter with 0.5 micron pores or smaller. The Platypus GravityWorks (about \$120) is excellent, and easy to use, ideal for beginners and experts alike, <sup>run on siphon</sup> but don't rely on it in parts of Europe or South America. There, viruses in the water can make you sick even after filtering, and you'll need to use a backup method of purification, such as boiling, chlorine tablets, or staying home and having a beer (about \$2).

## Part Three: Sleeping And Waking Up

So now the water probably won't kill you and you have a place to get out from under the sky in case weather happens. If you don't particularly like your spine, you could sleep directly on the ground, but I personally enjoy having the ability to stand up occasionally, so me and my girlfriend bought a sleeping pad. We bought a two person pad by therm-a-rest that you have to inflate with a separate inflating bag thing. I recommend an inflatable style unless you're planning to backpack in the winter, in which case you'll want an insulated pad so you can die of hypothermia more slowly. <sup>sleeping costs money?</sup>

Sleeping come in two varieties, and both of them are freaking expensive (\$350 - \$500). Synthetic bags are heavier and not as warm, but their cheaper and they stay warm when they're wet. Down bags are full of goose down <sup>feathers</sup> of varying quality. A nicer one can run you a lot of money, but they're ludicrously lightweight and very warm.

In any case, what you wear to sleep and when you wake up is as important as your bag. Cotton clothing (including jeans) can murder you using only small amounts of water, so avoid that stuff and get synthetic or smartwool clothing, especially socks and underwear.

## Part Four: Bears

There's no preparing for bears, but if you want to trick yourself into feeling better or piss the bear off so he kills you quicker, you should carry bearspray, <sup>of a gun, of a stick, or possibly a</sup> foam sword for all the good it'll do you. Tips on bear encounters include:

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- 1) If you see a bear, don't panic. They can smell your fear.
  - 2) If the bear charges, he's probably bluffing. Keep telling yourself lies like that to make yourself feel better until he mauls you with his 4 inch long claws.
  - 3) If the bear attacks you, play dead. It's good practice for when you'll be dead in a minute.
  - 4) If you have a knife, use it on the bear. Then people will say you died while stabbing a bear, making you sound way more badass than you actually were.
  - 5) If you have pepper spray, spray it at the bear, not your clothes, and try to convince yourself that making the bear's eyes water is somehow going to help you.

6) Try to hike in groups of three or more in case of bears, because odds are you'll be faster than at least one of the other two.

Anyways, those are my tips for how to only MAYBE get eaten by a bear, instead of probably getting eaten by a bear, like you would have if you hadn't taken my advice.

I leave you with this fun fact: You're about 15 times more likely to be killed by lightning than by a bear. However, if you're fighting a bear during a thunderstorm, I wouldn't get your hopes up.