Rebecca Kates

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Draft 1

It is a well known fact that ancient people used the sun, moon, and constellations to observe planting seasons, and Nomadic tribes used the stars as tools for navigation. As time progressed, horoscopes and astrology were developed by the ancient Greeks, who thought that a person’s life was written out for them in certain heavenly bodies at the time of their birth.

A basic horoscope is related to a person’s time of birth, date of birth, and year. The year is divided into twelve different Zodiac signs, and each sign is said to have its own personality traits, both positive and negative. The twelve horoscope signs are Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces. Each has its own character traits, and knowing a person’s sign could be a great insight into their personality.

Historically, horoscope signs have been used as a way to see the future for individual people, different countries, and the world.

Many magazines and newspapers have daily, weekly, or monthly horoscopes in them. These horoscopes are purposefully vague, so that they truly do apply to anyone. “You will come into money this month” could mean anything from winning the lottery to finding some change on the ground. The daily horoscopes found in newspapers are based off of the sun, which does not take other planetary positions into account.

More “reliable” readings come from a person’s individualized birth chart, which is specific to only themselves. These readings are supposedly much more accurate, and can truly be believed.

I think you’re off to a good start. The tone so far does not seem to be especially sarcastic. You can further explore the “industry” by describing, for example, the books that describe how compatible people will be based on their astrological signs, as well as “new age” shops that boast a range of astrological products.

On the softer side, there is a long tradition of a desire among cilivlized cultures to reject orthodox belief systems in favor of systems that are more “cosmic” or earthly. While it would be foolish to believe in a horoscope in a literal sense, there are patterns and consistencies among people with similar signs that can be used as a lens into more meaningful and credible discussions. Like any religion, if viewed more as a framework for understanding and not a genuine source of knowledge in itself, astrology is not as absurd as it may seem.

You might want to include a brief discussion of how psychologists, too, beginning in the early 20th century, have sought to describe peoples’ personalities in terms of archetypes. Carl Jung is most notable for this. The methods are very similar.

What, of course, demands caution is trusting too entirely in the efficacy of these distinctions. Even Jung believed it was dangerous for someone at too young an age to begin to archetype himself.

I would include some examples of horoscopes with a little bit of analysis of their language. Also, look for examples of spin-off horoscopes like those found in the City Paper.

Finally, collect some testimony representing different views.