

ANSC 602 Position Paper Grading Rubric

Name: Nick

Article was uploaded to course website: Yes / No

Analysis is based on an approved article: Yes / No

Draft for peer review: Yes / No

Participated in peer review: Yes / No

Meets expectations for the assigned analysis/fulfills the assignment: Yes / Somewhat / No

	CATEGORY	Exceeds expectations	Meets expectations	Needs improvement	Unacceptable
Content	Introduction	Strong introduction of topic and central argument(s), clearly delineates subtopics to be reviewed, specific thesis statement	Conveys topic and central argument(s), delineates subtopics to be reviewed, general thesis statement	Conveys topic but not central argument(s), only generally describes subtopics to be reviewed, vague thesis statement	Does not adequately convey topic, does not describe subtopics to be reviewed, lacks adequate thesis statement
	Body	Exceptionally well-presented and argued Ideas are detailed, well-developed, supported with specific evidence as well as examples	Well-presented and argued Ideas are detailed, developed and supported with evidence, which is mostly specific	Content is sound/solid Ideas are present but not particularly developed or supported Some evidence, but usually of a general nature	Content is not sound Little or no evidence of critical, careful analysis Too few/no examples and evidence or they are mostly irrelevant
	Support	Sources are high quality, exceptionally well-integrated, and support claims very effectively	Sources are of good quality, well integrated, and support the paper's claims	Sources are of questionable quality, support some claims, are not integrated within argument well	Paper does not use adequate research or if it does, sources are not integrated well
	Conclusion	Adept review of key conclusions that is clearly integrated with thesis statement, insightful discussion of solutions/alternatives	Review of key conclusions and integration with thesis statement, discussion of solutions/alternatives	Vague review of key conclusions. Little integration with thesis. Limited discussion of solutions/alternatives	Does not summarize evidence with respect to thesis statement No discussion of solutions/alternatives
Structure & Style	Organization Transitions	Paper is logically organized Easily followed Effective and smooth transitions	Clear organizational structure with some digressions or ambiguities Easily followed Basic transitions	Some organization though digressions, ambiguities, irrelevances are too many Challenging to follow Ineffective transitions	No apparent organization to the paper No or poor transitions
	Sentence structure	Sentences are clear and varied in pattern	Sentences are clear but may lack variation, few may be awkward	Sentences are generally clear but may have awkward structure or unclear content	Majority of sentences aren't clear
	Tone Vocabulary	Clear use of academic writing style, suited to audience and purpose Sophisticated, subject specific vocabulary	Writer's tone emerges and is generally appropriate to audience Vocabulary is varied, specific and appropriate	Little attempt at style; reads as flat and perhaps uninteresting in content Vocabulary is used properly	Vocabulary is unsophisticated, not used properly in very simple sentences
Mechanics	Grammar Punctuation Spelling	Virtually free of grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors	Occasional grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors	Many grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors	Frequent grammatical, spelling, and punctuation errors that detract from meaning/comprehension
	Formatted according to assignment guidelines: Yes / No ~2pg (less than 3pg minimum)				
	All references cited correctly according to CSE guidelines: Yes / No				

Grade: 90 (A-)

The Grand National is a horse racing event held in Aintree, England each year. The race has garnered opponents who have claimed the race to be “one of the longest and most hazardous in the world.” Since the year 2000, a total of sixty-two horses have died at this very track from broken necks or backs after failing to jump a barrier. This includes three horses from this year’s race. Those staggering numbers have not gone unnoticed by animal rights groups in the area.

This year [?]over authorities arrested one hundred activists ahead of the race after ^{they managed?} managing to breach the perimeter of the track and delay the start by 15 minutes. This article is short¹,

highlighting only a couple sources on each side. The anti-racing stakeholders consist of PETA

UK, the League Against Cruel Sports, and Animal Aid while both the owner of the track and the executive officer of the British Horseracing Authority make the pro-racing points. My primary

source is from The Guardian, a well-respected publication. While the author may have accurately

presented both sides, they shied away from showing any defense for the teams or event

organizers, thus showing a bias against racing.

It is not that the author outright voiced their opinion on what they think of horse racing, rather they consciously chose to prefer more anti-racing views. Evidence of this is that the first statement from a pro-racing stakeholder appears in about the last 20 percent of the article.

^{fragment} Allocating the rest to anti-racing stakeholders and viewpoints. Unfortunately, the author remains anonymous, making it impossible to gather any potential evidence of bias from their other works.

When comparing this article to one authored by someone with clear anti-racing views, it is clear they are for similar audiences and for similar purposes. For instance, an article with clear bias from VeganFoodAndLiving.com covering this issue uses the same stat about sixty-two deaths since the year 2000 and the same quote from PETA UK regarding the race as a “national disgrace” as in The Guardian article².

Another piece of evidence toward the author's biases is which quotes represent either side of the argument. The pro-racing quotes used here are incredibly brief and hollow by design. An example is the quote, "Our thoughts are with everyone connected to the horses who suffered fatal injuries this week." The choice to include a clearly run-of-the-mill response is to show the pro-racing's impartiality to the animal rights abuses. Contrast this with language like "brutal horrors," "disgrace," "utter shame," and "carnage" found in quotes by the anti-racing stakeholders. This is evidence of a contextual imbalance between both sides which could lead to the reader feeling that the pro-racing side is weaker to argue for. Though these words did not come from the author's mouth, they specifically chose to include such language for a greater appeal to emotion.

The author does not state any real counterarguments. While there may be valid perspectives and reasoning supporting the continuation of racing and the current safety measures in place, these viewpoints are not present in the article. The governing body of horse racing in Great Britain outline their horse welfare strategy in a document over one hundred pages long which include guidelines on safer fence posts and EcoTrack as an alternative to wood chips, among others³. Simple examples would be them choosing not to mention the \$11,000 raised for various charities or the \$3,000,000 of taxes generated this year alone⁴. These omissions can further contribute to a perception of limited representation of opposing views, thus showing their bias.

Sometimes it is not what someone says that shows their biases, but rather what they do not say or show. The author/editor/media outlet gives prominence to the emotionally charged words and phrases from activists, while not granting the same level of attention or analysis to opposing viewpoints. By not including sufficient counterarguments or alternative perspectives,

the article creates an imbalance in the presentation of viewpoints, which can influence the reader's perception of the issue. These techniques I found the author using led me to believe that the author holds a bias against horse racing.

References

1. PA Media. 2023 Apr 15. Calls for jump-racing ban after Grand National horse deaths. The Guardian; [accessed 2023 Jun 18]. <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2023/apr/15/calls-for-jump-racing-ban-after-grand-national-horse-deaths#:~:text=Animal%20rights%20campaigners%20have%20called,175th%20annual%20Grand%20National%20festival.>
2. Gilliver L. 2023 Apr 25. Grand National loses another sponsor following furore over horse deaths. Vegan Food & Living; [accessed 2023 Jun 18]. <https://www.veganfoodandliving.com/news/grand-national-loses-another-sponsor/>
3. BHA. 2020 Feb 1. A life well lived. A new strategic plan for the welfare of horse bred for racing, 2020-2024. British Horseracing Authority; [accessed 2023 Jun 18]. http://media.britishhorseracing.com/bha/Welfare/HWB/WELFARE_STRATEGY.pdf
4. Anderson J. 2023 Apr 13. GRAND OFFER Charities set to win big with over 40 MPs backing BGC's Grand National Charity Bet campaign. The Sun; [accessed 2023 Jun 18]. <https://www.thesun.co.uk/sport/22029719/grand-national-charity-bet-aintree/>