Argument analysis writing 1

What is argument analysis?

Section from VCAA exam specifications:

Section C will consist of an analysis of argument and language and will be worth a total of 20 marks.

Students will be required to analyse the use of argument(s) and language to persuade an intended audience to share the point of view expressed in an unseen persuasive text. For the purposes of this task, 'language' refers to written and spoken language, and 'visuals' refers to images and graphics. Students will not be required to evaluate the relative merits or successes of argument(s).

In other words, you will be given a text on the day of your test/exam which you will have to read and write an essay analysing the writer's arguments and <u>how</u> they attempt to persuade the reader of their opinion.

Therefore, persuasive writing techniques as well as any images included must be analysed.

Structure of an argument analysis

Introduction

- Introduce the issue talked about in the text (e.g. with the recent rise of technological advancements, the question of whether or not the use of AI should be restricted is up for debate)
- 2. Introduce the article
 - → type of article (opinion piece, news report, speech...)
 - → author(s) full names and their credentials (Newspaper editor, school captain etc.)
 - → date of **publication** and the **publisher** (e.g. the Herald Sun, a podcast channel)
 - → a overall **tone** of the piece (passionate, angry, mocking, satirical)
 - → contention of the author (what is their opinion on the issue?)
 - → target audience- who is the author trying to write to or persuade?

Body paragraphs

★ use **TEEL** structure- without linking sentence

Structure:

- 1. Topic sentence
- 2. First example/evidence
- 3. Analysis/explanation
- 4. Second example
- 5. Second analysis

Conclusion

- 1. Summarise main contention of the writer
- 2. **Take home message** of overall article (What **action** does the writer want for the readers/audience to take after reading her article? e.g. a **call to action**)

TASK 1: Read and annotate the example article below



The Sydney Morning Herald

COMMENT National Opinion

This was published 6 years ago

Why the Melbourne Cup is actually one of the cruellest days on Australia's calendar

Laura Weyman-Jones

Updated November 6, 2017 — 3.50pm, first published November 6, 2010 — 11.45pm



It's hard to escape all the hype about the "race that stops the nation". It's marketed as a fun day out for punters, a chance to wear ostentatious hats, and, at the very least, a day off work for Victorians.

But there's no dressing up the fact that the Melbourne Cup is one of the cruellest days on Melbourne's calendar. Ever since Archer became famous for winning the first Melbourne Cup while already injured – in a race in which two other horses died – countless horses have sustained catastrophic injuries on the racetrack after being whipped mercilessly and pushed past their limits.

The 2014 race resulted in the death of two horses: Admire Rakti, who collapsed and died in his stall after the race, and Araldo, who broke his right hind leg and had to be euthanased. The following year, fan favourite Red Cadeaux lay on the ground with a shattered leg until she was killed.

And, of course, horses are dying at lower-profile races all the time. From July 2016 until July 2017, <u>137 horses died</u> on Australian racetracks. That's an average of more than two deaths a week.

Then there are those who just don't win enough. Reports put the "wastage" rate for horses in training or racing at about 40 per cent. The vast majority of owners are unwilling to bear the costs incurred by horses who aren't making them money, so those animals are often sent to the abattoir to be slaughtered.

Horses who do make the grade are subjected to a gruelling schedule from a young age. Because their skeletal systems are still growing, many sustain muscle and joint injuries, fractures, musculoskeletal trauma, and ruptured ligaments.

Rather than allowing injured horses time to recuperate, most trainers use a regimen of painkillers, anti-inflammatory drugs, muscle relaxants and other medications to keep horses on the track.

It's also common for horses who race to suffer from internal bleeding, including exercise-induced pulmonary haemorrhaging – which can cause blood to pour from their nostrils – afterwards. Researchers at the <u>University of Melbourne</u> discovered that more than half the horses they studied used for racing had blood in their windpipes.

In addition to trauma to the respiratory system, most horses in the industry suffer from stomach ulcers. And <u>studies</u> in Sydney and the US have found that more than 85 per cent of thoroughbred horses used for racing had lesions in their stomach lining.

When there's money at stake, no horse – not even the likes of this year's Cup favourite, Almandin, or Cox Plate winner, Winx – can outrun the whip. Just like humans, horses can feel a fly land on their skin, so can you imagine their pain when struck repeatedly with a whip?

Whipping can cause localised trauma and tissue damage, and ironically, flogging a live horse is only marginally less futile than flogging a dead one. A <u>study of Australian horse racing</u> found it improved the times of just 2 per cent of horses.

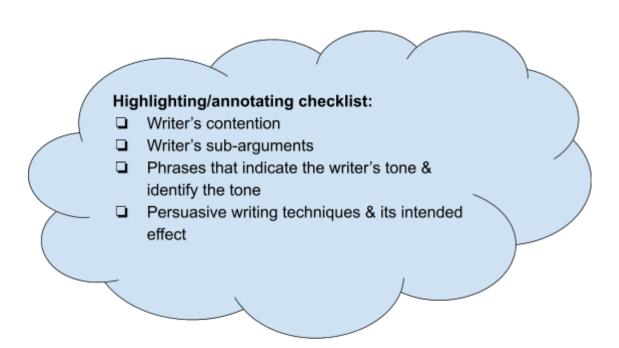
Then there's the human toll. The racing industry recently buried jockey Darren Jones, who was killed in a three-horse fall in <u>Warialda</u>, NSW, in which two other jockeys were also seriously injured.

Horse racing is <u>statistically</u> Australia's most dangerous "sport", eclipsing even motor racing for number of injuries per 1000 hours of competition. But at least the human participants get to choose whether to be involved.

While the achievements of the lucky few will be plastered across the media this week, it's a safe bet that the thousands of broken-down, slow, or old horses exploited and abused by the industry won't be getting a mention. Their grim fate at the hands of an industry in which the odds are always against them is hidden by the glitz and glamour, champagne, fashion, and prize money.

There's nothing "sporting" about a pastime in which animals routinely suffer and die, and it's time we put a stop to the cruelty in "the race that stops the nation".

Laura Weyman-Jones is press officer at animal rights group PETA Australia.



EXAMPLE ANNOTATION

The **persuasive techniques** are highlighted, identified and its effect is considered, **tone** of the piece is identified and the **contention**

Alone and unprotected

Re "Safety patrols at <u>train stations dive</u>" (The Age, 27/2). Last Sunday, **I** attempted to catch the 4.12am train from Moreland to Flinders Street stations. However, at 4.11am the doors locked and despite my waving my arms over my head – and wearing a bright orange top – the train left the station.

Leaving me alone. No protective services officers. The next train in an hour. And according to the nearest stop in Sydney Road, no trams for 90 minutes. But that was OK because any woman, alone in a public place, would feel safe on a Saturday night/Sunday morning, wouldn't they? Or was that why they brought in the PSOs in the first place?

Anne Rutland, Brunswick West

Personal related?

experience

move

offected?

yelidble? informed?

able to feel safe in public, specifically public transport Oreas.

TASK 2: Identify 5 examples of persuasive techniques

Instructions: Fill in the table below or make a similar table to practise finding and analysing the author's persuasive techniques.

PERSUASIVE TECHNIQUE * Write below the quote from the text	TYPE OF TECHNIQUE e.g. simile, rhetorical question	ANALYSIS 1. what is the author trying to say through this quote & the use of the technique? 2. the intended effect on the audience e.g. to make the reader feel guilt and shame
E.g. "A study of Australian horse racing found it improved the times of just 2 per cent of horses"	Case study/statistical evidence	 The author is trying to highlight the futile practice of "whipping" horses with evidence, rather highlighting it as animal abuse to encourage the reader to feel shame in supporting horse racing and the common practice of whipping horses in races

TASK 3: Write an introduction for the article

INTRODUCTION SCAFFOLD

Recently, the issue of	(state the question of the issue/whether or	
not) has arisen as a result of came about).	(give a reason why the issue	
,	", the writer tials) argues that	
•	tone, (adjectives for tone e.g. forthright, al, informative, humorous), addressing his/her	

Your introduction:

Next lesson...

We will practise analysing more persuasive techniques & analysing images.