

(Name)

(Instructors' name)

(Course)

(Date)

### The 'Dope' about 'Doping' in Sports

The article, 'How to Get Doping out of Sports' by Vaughters Jonathan, which featured in 'The New York Times', attempts to espouse a paradigm shift on the negative views of doping in sporting activities. Vaughters imbues a formidable argument on the issue of doping but his argument is marred by flaws in the presentation of his standpoint, which ultimately downplays his indicative cause. This paper intimates how to support his writing, Jonathan Vaughters uses rhetorical appeals (ethos, pathos and logos) for argumentation.

Vaughters uses ethos to build up his case-he starts by making the audience privy to his personal experience. He categorically highlights how he began his life in cycling in middle school as a skinny character and narrates how he had to push himself hard to extremes of getting frostbites just to achieve his goals (Vaughters 1). The author offers the reader a vivid description of his expeditions and how he went about pursuing his dreams. Jonathan highlights the physical constrains of riding 20,000 miles annually over a decade, the strain on his family in supporting and understanding him, as well as the loss of social contact (Vaughters 2). Through an extensive account of his experience with cycling and his doping habit which he hoped would set him apart, Jonathan is able to establish an identifiable character with whom the reader can relate as well as lend credibility to his cause. He explicates the excuses that sportspersons commonly use to justify their involvement in doping but redirects the thinking of the reader to comprehending how

important it is for sportsmen to pursue their dreams without compromising ethical behavior. There is, however, a missing link in the fact that it is not compulsory to dope in order to reach the apex of one's career.

The author also uses logos to pose his argument. He reiterates the fact that it is a wonderful prospect to win a race without doping but submits that winning is not feasible without the enforcement of anti-doping regulations when other athletes in the race are avid indulgers in the vice and therefore have an unfair advantage. However, deciding to drop out of a race because anti-doping regulations are being flouted is at the same time tantamount to sacrificing one's dreams (Vaughters 3). His logical argument is, therefore, that the solution is not to educate young athletes that foregoing life-long dreams is better than giving in to cheating, but to never afford them that option. Despite the fact that he is an ardent sportsperson who has doped when cycling, his argument castigates sportspeople who indulge in the same habit. His level of frustration with the issue of doping however puts flaws to his logical premises since he points out fact and then appeals on an emotional standpoint to bias the reader into taking his logical stance instead of simply laying down the facts and letting the reader digest these facts and draw logical conclusions independently.

Ultimately, Vaughters uses pathos as an argumentative cue. His appeal to the readers' emotions emerge in the tone of his language as he attempts to stir their emotions to understanding the sad reality of doping. He imitates that letting go of one's dreams or living with the guilt of dishonesty is quite a burden. As such, he makes the reader understand that he is sorry for his decision to engage in doping (Vaughters 3). The author directs the attention of the reader to the essence of keeping a clean track record during the pursuit of sporting careers. He further states how the guilt he felt led him into early retirement from professional cycling in spite of his

exposure to an environment that placed more emphasis on racing clean rather than winning. Vaughters's article is meant to appeal to the sporting fraternity with regard to the vile nature of doping. However, his argument is flawed by emotional overtures that contort the readers' perceptions and limit the chances of drawing an unbiased opinion from an ethical perspective. Vaughters is able to inform the audience of the implications of doping to a sportsperson's career and the impact it has at the personal level even when the culprit is not reprimanded.

Work cited

Vaughters, Jonathan. "How to Get Doping Out of Sports." Opinion. *The New York Times* 12 Aug. 2012: SR9. Print.