

## Argument Builder Models

The debatable question for these argument models is on soccer.

### Is soccer the best sport in the world?

#### Argument Elements Index

Black font is for the argumentative claim.

Blue font is for evidence.

Green font is for reasoning which (A) analyzes the evidence.

Gray font is for reasoning which (W) warrants the evidence.

Red font is for reasoning which (E) emphasizes the importance of the evidence for the claim and/or for the overall position.

#### Position: Soccer is the best sport in the world (Affirmative)

Soccer is simply the most well-loved sport in the world. For the World Cup soccer championship in 2014, there were 909.6 million viewers for at least 30 minutes of the games. That same year, There were 111.5 million viewers around the world for the Super Bowl (Charles Doty, Beutler Ink website, an international marketing firm, accessed June 18, 2018). This comparison in the viewing audience of soccer and football is recent and authoritative, since it compares "apples to apples," the pinnacle soccer championship and the pinnacle American sport's championship, football. Because soccer is truly enjoyed internationally its dominance over even the strongest regional rival is overwhelming: more than eight times as many people watch and love soccer as football. There is no better way to rank sports than to count the number of their fans. Sports are entertainment to their audiences; the size of the sport's audience is the key metric. And soccer's audiences not only grant it the title of best sport in the world, but they suggest that no other sport is even in the running.

#### Position: Soccer is not the best sport in the world (Negative)

Soccer has long stretches of scorelessness, which makes it too unexciting to be the best sport. In 1900 the average number of goals in a World Cup soccer game was 4.6. By 2010, that number had fallen to 2.4. "This is a worrying trend. Due to advances in defensive strategies, it is possible that we may witness goals dying out altogether" (Chris Anderson, professor of statistics, Cornell U., Slate.com, May 13, 2013). This statistical evidence comes from the most prestigious and important soccer competition and reveals an almost 50% reduction in the number of goals in today's game. It is fair to conclude that the average soccer game is won 2 - 1 or 2 - 0. Scoring is too closely connected to the excitement a sport generates for this fact to be dismissed. Soccer observers sit through nearly three hours to watch only two or three goals; less than one per hour of watching time. The game is simply too slow from a scoring standpoint to ever be called the world's greatest game.