

Counter-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 summary of the argument.

Green font is for the counter-claim.

Blue font is for an independent counter-argument's evidence.

Gray font is for an independent counter-argument's reasoning.

Red font is for a critical counter-argument's critical reasoning.

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

Soccer haters say that there is too little scoring in soccer and that makes the game unexciting. **In reality, excitement in sports is not a function of how much scoring there is in a game. Basketball has the most scoring of all the major American sports, but it is historically less popular than baseball, which has far less scoring. The Olympics are very popular sports, and most events have no real scoring. Further, soccer is very exciting because it is the most unpredictable of all the major sporting contests. According to Science Buzz, in an article titled "Is Soccer the Most Exciting Sport to Watch?" (January 9, 2006),**

Researchers at the Los Alamos National Laboratory have found that soccer is the most unpredictable sport, as it is more likely that a team with a worse record can defeat a team with a better record. The researchers looked at the results of over 300,000 soccer, baseball, basketball, hockey and football games, and found that the chances for an upset was greatest in soccer.

Not knowing the outcome gives sports uniquely "reality-based" excitement, and soccer gets more excitement from this quality than any of the other sports.

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

Soccer fanatics say that their game is the most well-loved sport in the world and that viewership should determine which sport is best. **But this point overlooks the fact that viewership is not a good way to rank sports. Simple popularity is never a good measure for quality. Pop stars are a thousand-fold more popular than jazz or classical musical artists; that does not make them better artists or musicians. No academic subject area looks purely at popularity as an important criterion for quality. Presidents, too, are not "best" because they got more votes. When people call Lincoln the greatest President, they are not looking at his approval ratings or votes. What's more, soccer is popular in other countries because they don't have better sports to choose. According to Camron Moffid, soccer is popular in other countries because of the lack of local options and because, as an inexpensive sport, it is played so frequently in low-funded schools (B-R, July 13, 2010). Every single kid in these countries plays soccer growing up. And when they're grown up, soccer is the only game in town. These are the reasons it is so popular, not because it is a great sport.**