

Analysis of argument and language worksheet

The AltRight and #EggBoy

Student worksheet

Context

Fraser Anning is a Queensland Senator who supports the political far right. He has supported gatherings of White Supremacists in Melbourne, attended gun shows, and discussed a 'final solution' for Muslims in his first speech to the Senate. This term has odious historical connotations because it signifies the atrocities committed by the Nazis when they murdered six million Jews during the Holocaust, in Europe last century. Anning blamed New Zealand's immigration laws for the massacre of 50 Muslims on 15th March 2019, instead of condemning the murderer for his actions. During a media conference held by Anning about the New Zealand massacre, a 17-year-old boy cracked an egg on his head. This boy is now known as EggBoy.

1. Vocabulary:

	Meaning
the alt-right	
white supremacists	
inadvertently	
to burnish	
a poster boy	
to solidify support	
the mainstream	
to rally behind	
dangerous turf	
to set a precedent	
one-uppence	
to say something atrocious	
to beget	
to egg on	

2. Put the following statements into the same order as they appear in the article.

- A. Anning's immediate reaction to being egged showed that his ego was hurt more than anything else.
- B. It is dangerous to react violently, however mildly, because the levels of violence can go up.
- C. Eggboy's action turned Fraser Anning into a hero for the alt-right.
- D. Anning's reaction was more violent than Eggboy's action.
- E. When he was attacked by Eggboy, people who share Anning's views saw him as a victim and gave him their support as their leader.
- F. Even though the egging did not hurt Anning physically, it was a violent act.

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3. Find 2 comments in the article that support the following statement.

'The writer's contention is that it was wrong to egg Fraser Anning because this could lead to increasing violence.'

4. List the different terms that the writer uses for Will Connolly. Do not include pronouns.

5. How are these terms meant to influence readers? Fill in the gaps with the quotes below to complete the paragraph.

These terms emphasise Connolly's comparative youth, and the seemingly innocuous 'weapon' that he had armed himself with: "_____". His nickname, _____, is reminiscent of unrealistic cartoon heroes like AstroBoy. By contrast, Senator Anning is linked with extremist political views (as a _____), guns (_____), and physical violence (_____). Shivani Goppel is positioning readers to accept that Connolly was out of his depth, even though he has been embraced as a hero in popular culture (_____), and that his actions could begin an escalation of real violence.

"the nation is cheering"

"EggBoy"

"Sure, it was just an egg"

"his attendance at a gun show"

"He instantly hit young Connolly ... more damage"

"poster boy for the movement"

6. Extension

Analyse the ways in which the writer uses argument and written and visual language to try to persuade others to share his point of view.