

The Research Plan

Make sure you fill out completely *all* the information in the sections below. Failure to complete these sections fully and honestly may incur a loss of points. Responding to some questions with “no” or “n/a” or “I don’t know yet” *is* acceptable; however, leaving any responses blank is not. If you do not understand any questions, you are encouraged to contact your instructor.

Section 1

Name: Abdulla Al-Qubaisi

Major: Finance

Section 2

On a scale of 1 to 10, how confident do you feel about writing for this course?

1/ I would rate myself between 9-9.5. I am quite confident about my topic. I hope to live up to the professor’s expectations.

Section 3

Based on your experience from your previous writing course and from the lessons you have received so far, what **three** things have you given extra care and attention towards for this assignment?

1/ I have tried to play extra attention to writing a clear and concise thesis statement.

2/ I have tried to avoid the “which” versus “that” issue. I learned about it in WRI 102.

3/ I was particular about keeping my audience in mind while writing each section of this plan.

Section 4

Working Topic: (e.g., smoking)

1/ Zoos

Working Research Question: (e.g., Is smoking beneficial?)

1/ Should zoos be banned?

Working Secondary Questions

You may not have any secondary questions yet – but have a go at writing what some may be. At least, you’ll get some feedback from the instructor.

(Examples: What are the benefits of smoking?)

1/ How can the banning of zoos help avoid the cruel treatment of animals?

2/ Is the confinement of animals in zoos related to the reduced life span of some animal species?

3/ Does the existence of zoos help save some animal species from extinction?

Working Thesis: (e.g., Smoking is beneficial.)

1/ Zoos should be banned.

Working Counter Theses: (e.g., 1/ Smoking is not beneficial. 2/ Smoking may have some benefits, but it has more drawbacks. 3/ Smoking may be beneficial but only when combined with other practices. 4/ Smoking may be beneficial for some people but not for others. Etc.)

1/ Zoos should not be banned.

2/ Zoos may have some ethical issues, but they have immense value for humans as educational and scientific research facilities.

Working Supporting Arguments: (e.g., [Smoking is beneficial because ...] 1/ smoking makes you look cool. 2/ smoking helps you lose weight.)

1/ Zoos should be banned to save animals from a life of captivity.

2/ Zoos should be banned because these facilities are being run for profit-maximization.

3/ Zoos should be banned because of the rising animal attacks on zoos visitors and zookeepers.

Working Counter Arguments: (e.g., [Smoking is *not* beneficial because ...] because 1/ smoking causes serious diseases. 2/ cigarette smoke is very smelly. 3/ smoking not only harms the smoker, it harms other people in the environment of the smoker.)

1/ Zoos should not be banned because they help save endangered animals from extinction.

2/ Zoos should not be banned because they serve as educational facilities for the public for animal conservation efforts.

3/ Zoos should not be banned because they help produce scientific research.

Write Your Paper Below

Begin your paper at the start of the next page. Note that APA Level 1 headers have been provided. Write appropriate paragraphs within these prescribed areas. Remember to leave the rubric at the end of the paper.

Working Topic

My topic is about the need for banning zoos. Zoos, also known as menageries or animal parks, have been in existence for thousands of years, with the oldest zoo being discovered in 2009 in Egypt, dating its existence as far back as 3,500 BC (Gaille, 2017). Zoo facilities serve different purposes including giving people the opportunity to learn or saving endangered and rare species. Further, zoos attract tourists for entertainment such as to witness a cub being born or a gorilla taking its first baby steps. However, these purposes are often at the expense of the animals held in captivity in poor conditions. As such, politicians, animal rights activists, researchers, and scientists have expressed varying opinions over whether zoos should remain operational or not.

Numerous concerns raised about the functioning of zoos suggest that these animal parks should be banned. From an ethical standpoint, zoos should be banned because they hold animals in captivity and deny them the right to roam freely in the wild like they are naturally inclined to (Learmonth, 2019). Attacks on zoo visitors and keepers as a result of the deteriorating mental health of animals also highlight the need for banning zoos. For instance, the 2006 and 2009 giant panda attacks on humans at the Panda House in the Beijing Zoo are only a few examples of gruesome attacks by frustrated animals (Zhang et al., 2014). Lastly, zoos have become a hub for individuals with malicious intentions such as seeking to maximize profits, in turn neglecting the welfare of the animals (Loh et al., 2018). Therefore, these concerns shed light on the necessity for banning zoos.

At the same time, opponents claim that zoos should remain operational. For instance, critics argue that zoos play a crucial role in protecting rare and endangered species, including those on the verge of extinction (Learmonth, 2019). Similarly, zoos also serve as educational facilities where children and families can learn about different species (Gaille, 2017). In addition,

critics suggest that specialized trainers take good care of animals while striving to replicate individual animals' natural habitats.

While zoos have some advantages, current malicious practices in the zoos call for banning these facilities. Failure to ban zoos are likely result in negative impacts that outweigh the benefits of keeping these animal parks operational. Indeed, the notion that society can use animals for any means including entertainment (like in the case of zoos) to serve their needs because animals have no intrinsic value is outdated. This research paper argues that zoos should be banned because of the cruel treatment of animals, animal attacks on tourists and zookeepers, as well as the ill-motive of zoo owners for profit-maximization.

Brief Introduction

My fascination with zoos began from an early age. I remember watching documentaries on channels such as *Animal Planet* and *National Geographic* with my parents. While watching these documentaries, I used to ask my parents many questions about animals and their habitats. In order to answer my questions, my parents often used to take me to the zoo on the weekends, which was without a doubt the highlight of my week. However, despite my own amusement when I visited the zoo, I wondered why these animals were kept in cages. My parents used to tell me that the animals are kept in cages to protect the visitors in the zoo from any harm. Yet, refusing to take that as the only answer, as I grew older, I began researching about zoos and the animals that are kept there. My research eventually revealed a lot of concerning aspects about the concept as well as operation of zoos around the world. As such, with the chance to do in-depth research for the whole semester, I had no doubt about choosing my topic (zoos).

While many of us ourselves, as well as siblings and friends enjoy visiting zoos, we all are often unaware about the ill-practices of zoos. In fact, some of us may not even be curious about how animals are treated behind the cages they are kept in. In addition, while zoos have their advantages in terms of recreation and educational purposes, I believe this topic gives a chance to my colleagues to be aware of both sides, and in turn make informed decisions in the future. Therefore, this topic is likely to appeal to almost all of my colleagues by enlightening their minds and potentially changing their perspective or opinions about zoos.

Research Questions and Methods

Primary Research Question: Is the banning of zoos necessary?

Secondary Research Questions:

1. Are there any necessary animal welfare regulations in place for operating zoos?
2. Why do zoo animals attack zookeepers and tourists?
3. How do zoos impact the physical and psychological well-being of animals kept in captivity?

Research Methods: Zoos have been in existence for quite a long time. Serving as facilities of education and entertainment, zoos attract visitors of all age groups. While humans enjoy their time in the zoos, watching animal antics; zoo animals suffer the curse of captivity. Indeed, life of confinement with unsuitable living conditions and amateur zookeepers to look after animals has become the reality of zoos. Thus, the existence of zoos has become a major topic for debate. Animal right activists, scientists, and ordinary civilians among others present opposing viewpoints with regards to whether zoos should be banned or not.

Upon initial research on the topic, I found a wide range of scholarly sources about the benefits and drawbacks of zoos being operational. In particular, I used the AUS library website

and Google Scholar to access databases such as JSTOR, ProQuest Central, and ScienceDirect. These databases provided me further access to a plethora of journal articles and books on the topic of zoos and the reality behind the operations of zoos. For instance, some of the journal articles that I found to be quite informative were published in journals such as *Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine* as well as *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. I also found an e-book on the topic, *Zoo Ethics: The Challenges of Compassionate Conservation*.

I will also look into newspapers and NGO-based articles published on the topic of zoos. Online commentary in the form of newspapers and NGO-based articles shall help provide me with recent events and opinions in favor or against the existence of zoos. Newspaper websites such as *The Guardian*, *The Forbes*, *BBC*, and *The New York Times* among others publish articles regularly, which highlight the opinions of students, scientists, animal rights activities on the topic of zoos apart from the zoo attacks that have become a common occurrence over the years. Overall, a mix of all these sources including e-books, journal articles, newspapers, and NGO-based articles shall provide me with the relevant information to draft a detailed research paper with arguments both in favor and against the banning of zoos.

References

Learmonth, M.J. (2019). Dilemmas for natural living concepts of zoo animal welfare. *Animals*, 9(6), 318-331. doi:10.3390/ani9060318

This peer reviewed article by Mark James Learmonth, a research scholar affiliated with the Animal Welfare Science Centre, The University of Melbourne, Parkville Australia, analyzes the ethical dilemmas often cited in the arguments revolving around the welfare of zoo animals. In his research, Learmonth stresses on the dilemma based on the concept of natural living. In other words, the author argues that while zoologists often boast about tailoring zoo habitats to meet the

natural habitats of most animals, it cannot be ignored that the animals are placed in enclosed spaces. As such, these efforts by zoos, for the seemingly best interests of the animals, do not prevent the unavoidable or unintended genetic drift in animals when they are held in captivity for life. The author further mentions that while human-animal interactions create a lot of controversy, when implemented in an appropriate manner, animals' well-being, regardless of whether they are held in captivity, will be significantly enhanced in the long-run. As such, the author calls for further research on examining what may constitute as positive and healthy human-animal interactions. I will use this article in the final paper to support my main argument that zoos should be banned because they treat animals with cruelty.

Zhang, P., Wang, T., Xiong, J., Xue, F., Xu, H., Chen, J., ..., & Jiang, B. (2014). Three cases giant panda attack on human at Beijing Zoo. *International Journal of Clinical and Experimental Medicine*, 7(11), 4515-4518.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4276236/>

This journal article by Peixun Zhang, a researcher affiliated with Peking University People's Hospital, Beijing, China, examines three different cases of giant panda attacks on humans at the Beijing Zoo. The authors elaborate that while pandas, Chinese national treasures, may be considered as cute and harmless animals, they should also be deemed as wild animals. Furthermore, cases of panda attacks on humans are rarely reported. However, at the Beijing Zoo, there were three major cases of panda attacks on humans between September 2006 and June 2009. These attacks, all of them on tourists, were severe and gruesome, and left the victims with lasting wounds. In fact, the article mentions that it took the efforts of zookeepers on all incidents to help the victims escape from the giant pandas' bites, thereby putting the zookeeper's lives at

risk as well. In their research, the authors conclude that it is evident that giant pandas, which feast on bamboos, may attack humans, especially when they are frightened or infuriated. I will use the article to discuss how zoo animals can turn on tourists and result in dangerous attacks, which in turn calls for the banning of zoos.

Gaille, L. (2017, June 4). 21 Pros and cons of zoos. *Vittana*. <https://vittana.org/21-pros-and-cons-of-zoos>

Loh, T.L., Larson, E.R., David, S.R., de Souza, L.S., Gericke, R., Gryzbek, M., ... & Knapp, C.R. (2018). Quantifying the contribution of zoos and aquariums to peer-reviewed scientific research. *Facets*, 3(1), 287-299. doi:10.1139/facets-2017-0083

Included in the introduction but not annotated.

Planning

I am enrolled in six courses this semester including Advanced Academic Writing, Fundamentals of Management, Fundamentals of Financial Management, Operations Management, Principles of Macroeconomics, and Fundamentals of Managerial Accounting. Indeed, amidst all these courses, which involve multiple theories and mathematical formulae, ENG 204 shall be the only writing course this semester. As a business major, I do enjoy learning about ways of management and economics; however, I also enjoy writing. I understand that some of my colleagues would consider my liking for writing as strange, but I have always been passionate about reading and writing. Therefore, I am confident that this semester will be quite enjoyable with a semester long research paper on a topic that I have been curious about since a young age. I have already planned about the next few weeks of this semester to ensure that I end up producing a decent draft for ENG 204.

During the past week and this week, I have done some extensive research on the AUS library and Google Scholar and shortlisted several articles. Since we are almost done with Week 3 and the submission of the ENG 204 research plan, I intend to spend this weekend reading the book I mentioned in the methodology section and some of the journal articles that I found before. During Week 4 and Week 5, I will work on the ENG 204 research proposal over the weekends (Friday and Saturday) and Tuesdays. Since I have two midterms during Week 6 for Fundamentals of Management and Fundamentals of Financial Management, I will be busy the entire week and shall not have enough time for ENG 204. I only plan to spend a few hours reviewing my draft for the research proposal to make sure to edit all errors before the week that week.

I have three midterms in Week 7 for Operations Management, Fundamentals of Managerial Accounting, and Principles of Macroeconomics. Therefore, I plan to only work on ENG 204 after my midterms in Week 7 on Friday morning and Saturday afternoon. On Thursday, I will be taking a break to refresh myself. However, the entire Week 8 will be dedicated to ENG 204 writing with only some in between preparation for quizzes for other courses. Later in Week 9, I will visit the writing center and email the professor for feedback on my working draft. Also, over the weekend, I will prepare the progress report due in Week 10. For Week 10 and 13, I will spend time on ENG 204 on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. I have midterms again in Week 11 and 12, thereby I will only spend time preparing for other courses. In Week 13, I will email the professor for feedback and visit the writing center again for final proof-reading.

Checklist

Before submitting, write “YES” for each of the items below. If this section has not been completed in full then your paper will need to be resubmitted as LATE (incurring the usual 10% late penalties).

1/ I have read the rubric, and included all the information required in the pages above.

YES

2/ I have pressed spellcheck/grammar check and corrected any text as appropriate.

YES

3/ I have carefully read *out loud* my entire paper and corrected issues where appropriate.

YES

4/ I have named the file for submission as follows: Research Plan [my iLearn name]

For example: Research Plan Philip Michael McCarthy

YES

5/ The file I am submitting is a Microsoft Word document.

YES