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Writing Assignment # 9 pages 276-279

Honors English 120 – Critical Writing

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**Critiquing: “Football Coach Salaries”**

Question # 1: This excerpt illustrates various kinds of analogy arguments. What points of comparison is the author making in the opening discussion of the Harley-Davidson Motor Company? Do you find the analogy effective? How does it clarify the author’s understanding of university priorities?

1. The author is trying to compare the Harley-Davidson Motor Company to the priorities of universities in the opening discussion. I believe that the analogy is effective because in both cases it seems as though the main priority is being pushed aside for other reasons that should not be viewed as more important. In the hypothetical Harley-Davidson example, it is expressed that more money is spent on making branded trinkets rather than the actual Harley-Davidson motorcycles for which the company was founded. In the university example, it seems as though more money is being spent on football programs than on the academics for which the university was made to provide. In both situations, it is a puzzling realization of funded priorities. It doesn’t make sense for Harley-Davidson or universities in general to promote themselves based on motorcycles and academics respectively when funds are going elsewhere. I believe that the opening analogy does clarify the author’s understanding of university priorities because he continues his article with various statistics and stories to back up his view.

Question # 2: The high salaries of football coaches are often justified by analogy to high-paid professional athletes or movie stars. How does the author rebut this analogy? Do you find the rebuttal effective?

1. The author rebuts the analogy of the high salaries of football coaches to high-paid pro athletes or movie stars by proving it to be inaccurate. He states that pro athletes, such as Alex Rodriguez, are paid by a professional team in order to produce a winning team. This will increase profit for the team which will go towards paying the athletes. Also, movie stars, such as Julia Roberts, are paid by production companies to produce films. When the films hit the box office, a profit is made and is used to pay the actors. However, when it comes to college football coaches, the higher paid coaches usually work at public schools. Public schools are funded by taxpayers, which is not the same as being paid by a team or a production company. They are not working for a professional team, and therefore cannot be compared to those who do. I find this rebuttal to be persuasive because the relationship between each individual and who he or she is paid by is thoroughly explained. The explanation shows that there is a distinct difference when it comes to paying celebrities as compared to college football coaches.