

Student Name

ENGL 1013

Assignment #2: Analysis

8 September 2023

Revision Note

The first feedback I received was to add the publishing date to my article, I made this edit because my paper is law-based and laws are subject to change, I also was told to make sure I added the author's name in my first in-text citation and to fix my headers. I made these edits because that is how you do correct MLA and I accidentally put the last name in the wrong citation in the first draft. My largest critique was to add a call to action in my conclusion. I agree with this critique! I struggled with figuring out my call to action during my first draft but I think I have found it now!

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Analysis essay

Australia is currently facing the controversy of whether it should remove the tax on feminine hygiene products. In Australia, people pay a goods and services tax (GST) on a large variety of different products. However, it has been called into question whether this tax should exclude feminine hygiene products because it is discriminatory towards women and implies that feminine hygiene products are non-essential. In the Article “The Tax on Feminine Hygiene Products: Is This a Reasonable Policy?”, published in 2016, the authors, Christina Do, Helen Hodgson, and Nicole Wilson-Rogers, thoroughly explain this case and through reason conduct a viable solution. They conclude that Australia should broaden the GTS to include all goods and services. The authors use the rhetorical strategies, logos, ethos, and pathos to effectively convey their argument throughout the article.

The authors employ the rhetorical technique of ethos to effectively persuade the reader. Firstly, the authors establish credibility by effectively citing their sources. Citing your courses shows that you have done thorough research on the given topic and have reputable and reliable information to back up your argument. This enhances the authors' character and trustworthiness. This also acknowledges that the writers took inspiration from others' work and credited them correctly. The authors also show ethos by admitting counterarguments. One of the arguments for keeping the tax on feminine hygiene products is that it was thought to be considered under medical goods and services which were already not subject to GTS. Therefore, medical goods and services were not considered in the original discussion to exempt certain items from GTS.

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However, feminine hygiene products were unfortunately not encompassed under medical goods and services and were therefore subject to the GTS tax. Nevertheless, the authors state that “Senator Meg Lees retrospectively acknowledged that if she had been aware that feminine hygiene products were not included in the categories made GST-free, she would have included the category in negotiations”, proving that even the Senator believes the tax on feminine hygiene products was a mistake(Do, et al., 6). The authors respectfully choosing to acknowledge alternative arguments displays that they have taken into account opposing perspectives and are open-minded.

The authors also appeal to the reader's sense of logic throughout the entirety of the paper by using the rhetorical device logos. Using logos persuades your reader on the basis of facts, evidence, and data. The writer uses logos to connect with the reader on an intellectual level that ensures the argument is built on solid reasoning and conclusions. The author says, “Countries that do not impose a GST or VAT on feminine hygiene products include: Ireland, Jamaica, Nigeria and Tanzania. Likewise in Kenya, due to the perceived health benefits of these items, in 2011 the VAT was reduced to zero”(10). The authors include a list of the countries that currently do not implement a tax on feminine hygiene products in order to show the reader that other countries have executed this and it was successful. The authors also persuade the reader with credible facts. He says, “It has been reported that the tax on feminine hygiene products contributes approximately \$30m a year to the GST revenue raised in Australia”(18). This shows

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that this tax, although small, adds up tremendously, and does greatly affect the women of Australia.

The authors consistently use the rhetorical strategy, pathos, to persuade throughout the article. The use of pathos is to evoke emotions and empathy therefore connecting your audience on an emotional level. The author's main argument is that having a tax on feminine hygiene products is discriminatory to women. He says,

It's discriminatory to exempt condoms or sunscreen from GST but charge women GST for essential items. Tampons and pads should have never been taxed in the first place – they are hardly luxury items, they are necessities. It screams of policy created without enough women in the room. ... It's grossly unfair that ... women are being forced to pay a tax on their bodies. (7)

This statement expresses a tremendous amount of pathos through its passionate phrasing and its protest against injustice. The author uses strong, evocative verbiage to elicit an emotional response from the reader. Example phrases are: “policy created without women in the room”, “grossly unfair”, and “forced to pay a tax on their bodies”. These phrases are meant to fire up the audience and make them upset or angry at this injustice. This statement also declares that it is unfair to women to allow other products like condoms or sunscreens to be exempt from this tax when these items are less essential than feminine hygiene products. This plea arouses the reader's sense of injustice and inequality and effectively aims to persuade the reader and make them sympathize with people who are affected by this tax. Lasting in this statement, the author

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personalizes this issue by underlining that this tax negatively affects only women. This technique is very effective at making the author connect at the individual level.

Throughout the article, the authors use ethos, logos, and pathos to skillfully communicate that feminine hygiene products should not be encompassed under the GTS tax. At this point, it should be clear that Australia's imposition of sales tax on feminine hygiene products is unreasonable. The women of Australia, and their loved ones, should be in support of the removal of this unjust and discriminatory tax that burdens the women of Australia. By removing this tax, Australia shows its commitment to equality and ensuring women of their basic necessities without financial strain.

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ENGL 1013

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Work Cited

Christina Do, et al. "The Tax on Feminine Hygiene Products: Is This Reasonable Policy?"

Australian Tax Forum, vol. 32, no. 3, 2017, pp. 521–40.