

AGAINST THE GRAIN: Revised Case Tutorial 6: Analysis

Let's see if this changes your mind



What stood out to you when you watched this debate?  
How did it impact your previous opinions?

### Reading with the grain

- Trying to read it how you think the author intended it to be read.
  - You're trusting the author.
  - You're trying to understand things from the author's perspective.
  - Follow the grain, coming to terms with the author's ideas.
  - Set concerns aside.
- To correctly represent an author's ideas, it helps to start by offering a tentative understanding. If you want to quote a text and argue against it, you need to have a complete or developing of it to be reasonable. This means you always have to read with the grain, even if you can't picture yourself agreeing with the author.

- What ideas did you agree with?
- What ideas did you disagree with?
- Did you change your opinion at all?

VS

### Reading against the grain

- You're considering what ideas the text gives you that the author probably didn't intend for you to arrive at.
- You avoid the grain; seeking out other ways to interpret the text.
- Question what the author says.
- Consider other perspectives.
- Are they making any assumptions?
- Can you think of a counter-example?
- It's often hard to read against the grain of something you agree with.

Watching the debate, when do you think you were reading with the grain?

When were you against it?

Find something you were doing when you were reading with the grain. Write down something that reads against the grain of that idea.

VS

Often, we read to ratify our beliefs.

- When what we read confirms or agrees with what we already think or hold to be true, we say that the text ratifies (or affirms) our beliefs and assumptions.
- Those with similar perspectives are prone to ratify our opinions.
- Ratification helps us feel connected.
- The texts that ratify don't challenge us; we can easily understand them.
- When our opinions are always ratified, our perspective never expands.
- You are "reading to ratify your beliefs" if you disagree with a text that challenges them.

When you watched the debate, where you reading for risk or ratification?

### Reading for risk

- When what we read makes us examine or question our prior ways of thinking or seeing the world, we say that the text puts our beliefs and assumptions at risk.
- The perspectives we encounter that are different from ours may put our beliefs at risk.
- When risk happens, we spend time with texts that challenge us. We might want to call them difficult or uncomfortable.
- Our first reaction will be to disagree with these texts.

Are you taking notes on the grain of the reading?

Do you discuss it in the office or with your advisor or tutor?

When you disagree with the author, do you write it down?

It's important, when you read for school, to make sure you read to understand. You want to understand the text and how your own biases play a role in your reading of it.

## **AGAINST THE GRAIN Harvard Case Solution & Analysis**

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To correctly represent an author's ideas, it helps to start by offering a text a generous understanding. If you want to quote a text and argue against it, you need to have a complete understanding of it to be successful. This means you always want to read with the grain, even if you can't picture yourself agreeing with the author.

VVS