

Bernard C. Vincavage  
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Essay #5 Rogerian Argument

### All for the Hunt

Imagine a wooded area with trees that housed birds of all kinds and bushes with ripened berries. The sun is softly flowing in pass the leaves and onto the delicate ground. Lying low in the shade of a great oak is an animal. The animal is dirty from lying in the shade and moves about picking up some fallen berries and placing them aside. Suddenly, the hair on its body stands up and then a few feet away it notices a creature coming out from behind a tree and sniffing the air for food.

The beauty of life is easily illustrated in this scene from the trees and birds and then to the sun touching the ground. The planet has beautiful scenes like this across the globe, but it also has the splendor of survival. Animals on the planet have this concept of survival embedded within them, so the beauty of survival is determined as which opponent will exist or win. Presently, this idea of survival is easily conveyed by every sporting event such as football, basketball, baseball, and even tennis because the object of the game is to win. Winning shows that a person or team has survived the game and stays in existence for the next round. I think there is a consensus that it feels great to win something. Does it not feel good to win?

The same idea of winning is found in hunting. Hunting demonstrates a feeling of winning because as a hunter pursues his or her prey and successfully kills it then a wave of elation overcomes the hunter. The hunter did not miss his prey but in fact struck it and therefore achieved his or her goal. Hunting is very common in the United States and in Kentucky alone; there are over a hundred thousand hunters. In 2005, the local newspaper the *Lexington Herald -Leader* reported "...an estimated 190,000 hunters, an army in orange, took to Kentucky's woods..." (Lander). This sheer amount of hunters in Kentucky does not represent the whole country, but it shows how popular hunting is in the United States. Many can agree that hunting is not a problem in society because it has been a long-standing tradition, creates spiritual awareness, and manages many wildlife populations. In addition, the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action claims, "Hunting contributes over \$30 billion to the economy each year, supporting over 1,000,000 jobs" (NRA-ILA Hunting Facts). Besides maintaining wildlife and keeping tradition, hunting alone contributes economically, but the real issue at hand is not the idea of hunting animals for a legitimate reason, but the act of killing or stealing animals outside of season also referred to as poaching.

Many can agree that hunters and animal rights groups have not been great allies, but these two groups have a sense of commonality, as they both want to rid the act of poaching. Poaching is defined as from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources as "...the illegal taking or possession of game and non-game animals, fish or other resources" (Target Illinois Poachers). The Illinois Department of Natural Resources also notes that signs of poaching include, "Hunting out of season and hunting at night with spotlights" (Target Illinois Poachers). The overall definition of poaching can be defined differently in other areas however the general concept of stealing game is agreed across the nation to be understood as poaching.

Poaching is a problem in society because hunters' reputations are being tarnished by poachers' greediness and those hunters who hunt by the rules are restricted due to the cause of poaching in the area. Even on a grandeur scale internationally, poaching is a major problem and is common to be found in Africa. The African Conservation Foundation debated about ethical hunting versus poaching in a forum online about the impact that poachers have on hunters. A charter member explains how the professional hunter goes about hunting legally as oppose to the poacher's way of dealing with obtaining game.

In the case of international hunters, the law is even tougher. The landowner still needs the permits. The

overseas hunter is brought to hunt on the land by a licensed [sic] professional hunter AND registered outfitter who has written, indisputable, hunting rights on that landowner's land, which he/she has submitted to the conservation authority [in a timely manner]. When the animal has been hunted and trophy preparation done, the Professional hunter has to submit papers from his ledger to the conservation authorities...ONLY when the cross references are done, all of the pieces of information match, and the conservation authorities are satisfied, are the trophies cleared for exportation.

(African Conservation Foundation)

In the effort of everything a professional hunter must go through from getting permission to eventually getting a trophy in this process, the charter member uses only one sentence to explain how a poacher goes about his or her duties. The member simply states, "The poacher on the other hand has no permission, from conservation authorities or landowners, kills indiscriminately, and often in a totally inhumane way" (African Conservation Foundation). Poaching is understood to be quick, easy for many, and ultimately cost and time effective therefore explains the reason of why there is poaching, but this quick and easy act tarnishes the reputation of so many hunters. I do not

think that those 190,000 hunters from Kentucky would like it if one poacher caused them to stop hunting altogether.

In order for those 190,000 hunters and many more that follow the rules to be redeemed in their attempt to enjoy the luxury to hunt, poaching should be stopped and can be stopped with the aid of hunters and non-hunters alike. Poaching can be prevented if more organizations like the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and even Pennsylvania's Game Commission advertised the threat of poaching and held public expos on the impact of poaching that it has on the hunting community.

Personally, I love animals and their lives and have never hunted before in my life. Nevertheless, I would not want one of my favorite things to do to be taken away from me all because of one or groups of people decide to abuse it. I love hearing my family tell me stories about their adventures in the woods and how relax and quiet the Earth can make them. My stepfather tells me all the time that he can hear his heartbeat and feels connected with the wood around him while he hunts. I value that my family respects the law and the animals. My stepfather does not only shoot the animals, leaves them there to rot like poachers usually do, but he uses the animal to survive, and cherishes a hunting tradition. We eat the meat and sometimes, the antlers of a deer are kept in memory of someone's first hunt. Likewise, my mother is happy about a hunt because more

money is kept in her pocket, and she does not have to go out and constantly buy those over priced beef patties from the store.

Works Cited

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