

# The Mighty Moose-An Exercise in Rogerian Argument

**Issues/Problems:** Moose are dangerous and expensive.

Question: What is/are the best solution(s) to the moose problem in Anchorage, AK?

## Here is what you do:

1. With a partner, create a document that will serve as an outline for a Rogerian argument.
2. Select a position from below (either A or B)
3. Outline a Rogerian argument explaining using bullet points and briefly explaining your persuasive moves:
  - a. Introduce the issue and show that the opponent's position is understood by re-stating it. (2-4 sentences)
  - b. List contexts in which opponent is correct or their position is valid (three bullet points with brief explanations 1 sentence each).
  - c. Write your thesis using a template from our reading on "So What." Your thesis should reflect a compromise.
  - d. State how opponent's position would benefit if the opponent adopted elements of writer's position. An attempt is made to show where the two positions complement each other and that each supplies what the other lacks. Make a bullet list with brief explanations (1-2 sentences) about how the positions are complimentary.

## Positions:

A. Have the police kill the moose when they are seen in a neighborhood. Moose are dangerous and kill people and their pets. Moose destroy property (cars, gardens, houses).

B. Use tranquilizers and other non-violent means to deter moose and move them out of the neighborhood. Moose are dangerous and kill people and their pets. Moose destroy property (cars, gardens, houses).



**Facts (example facts only):**

Alaska has a lot of moose that live in Anchorage and wander around the city's suburbs.

Moose bring in a lot of money in tourism. (Seriously, if there are moose around tourists think about buying moose products.) It is estimated that moose products account for 1 million dollars in revenue.

Moose are dangerous and end up killing 10-30 people (including car accidents caused by moose) and around 100 dogs every year.

In schools, children are taught about how to respond to earthquakes (these happen 5-10 times per year) but are not not taught how to respond to moose (children will see moose around 100 times per year)

If a moose is in your yard and you call the police, they are authorized to shoot the moose without trying out other options.

Tasers and firecrackers scare moose away. Studies have not been done on the effectiveness of these methods (firecrackers are relatively inexpensive). Only 10% of the police have tasers.

For the APD (Anchorage Police Dept.) guns and bullets cost about 30x less than tasers.

Moose come into town around Halloween to eat pumpkins.

Moose dig through trash.

A lot of people feed moose throughout the year.

There are laws in Alaska about feeding bears. It is illegal and you get a fine.

Moose eat a lot of ornamental shrubs and are expensive to homeowners who like to garden.

Moose can be prevented from eating shrubs by hot grass (electrified grass) and protecting the shrubs with cheap netting.

Over 80% of Alaskan residents believe moose meat tastes great. Moose meat can be sold to restaurants. Restaurants want moose meat because they sell it for \$50 for a 12oz steak. One adult moose can provide 500lbs of steak.

Roads can be designed to deter moose from crossing (expensive to install on pre-existing roads and cheap to install for new roads).

Anchorage govt. has a surplus of money (\$100,000,000 in oil revenue) but is frugal.

Moose disruption is not officially part of law enforcement duties or any other govt. branch.

**Last part –**

How would you choose to organize the argument about moose if you used a traditional strategy? Explain why. (3-5 sentences)