

Compare the two articles with opposing assertions and in a paragraph, analyze how each text emphasizes different interpretations. Use relevant and specific evidence from the articles to support your response.

Is Boxing Safe?

by Kay Ireland, Demand Media

Source: <http://woman.thenest.com/boxing-safe-4925.html>

Boxing and Other Sports

When compared to contact sports, boxing doesn't even make the top 10 list of most dangerous sports. In fact, football, basketball, baseball, hockey, swimming and a few others have more potential for injury, according to a report published by "Forbes." Another report by the International Boxing Association suggested that women are less likely to sustain similar injuries because of their smaller and more flexible heads, necks and shoulders. The same report points out that boxing -- and possible blows to the chest -- doesn't increase your risk of breast cancer, which was once a concern for female boxers.

Amateurs vs. Pros

Another thing that boxing has going for it as a sport or fitness program is the fact that if you were to take up boxing, you'd be in an amateur league. Amateur leagues are made up of boxers with limited skills and the leagues have strict fighting guidelines, thanks to referees who enforce the league rules. While pro leagues might be dangerous due to the nature and skill of the boxers, amateur leagues are generally safe and very well monitored.

Possible Risks

It's true that boxing -- like all other sports -- carries with it the potential for injury. In general, as long as you're wearing the proper gear and using the right techniques, you should be safe. Still, you may experience problems such as broken bones from impact, tears and sprains from maneuvering around the ring -- or even head injuries after blows to the head. If you're nervous about injury or concussion, check the league rules. To keep boxers safe, some boxing leagues forbid blows to the head, which might be a good precaution if you're new to the sport.

Some women should avoid boxing altogether. Contact sports aren't appropriate for pregnant women, and you should always check with your doc before getting in the ring, particularly if you have an existing medical condition.

Safety Precautions

Wearing head protection, proper gloves and shoes should all help to protect you from concussions, sprains and tears. However, be sure that you have your technique down before you challenge another boxer. Signing up for a class, getting an instructor and practicing before you go head-to-head means you won't injure yourself because of sloppy technique or bad footwork. Make sure you're ready before you step into the ring, and you can protect yourself from injury, even while sparring with another boxer

There is No Sport Like Boxing

Issue: BCMJ, Vol. 45, No. 9, November 2003, page(s) 473-474

By *Malcolm Smilie*

Source: <http://www.bcmj.org/back-page/there-no-sport-boxing>

The noble art of boxing—or, the ignoble art of scrambling the human brain

The sport of cockfighting is banned in Canada and outlawed in most other countries throughout the world. It is a barbarous anachronism. The idea of training animals to injure and kill each other in order to provide a few brief moments of entertainment and elation along with winnings from betting is abhorrent to most of us. And yet boxing, which has its essentials in cockfighting, with behemoths instead of birds, gloves instead of razors, with wealthy businessmen behind the contestants instead of working class trainers, and the human brain the target rather than avian viscera, still continues. Just as cockfighting does not demean the cocks but the audience and the bird's connections, so boxing does not demean the boxers, but the boxer's supporters and manipulators.

The aim of boxing is to cause brain damage. People point out that football, hockey, and rugby are all dangerous. They are perfectly right. But the aim of these sports is not to cause injury. In boxing the ultimate achievement is to knock somebody out. And to knock somebody out is to injure his or her brain.

The medical profession has thrown its weight many times in calls for the sport's modifications and abolition. A neurologist once made me feel queasy by saying the brain is the texture of lightly cooked scrambled eggs suspended in a bony thing called the skull. His analogy underscores how fragile an organ it is despite our perceptions to the contrary.

Every year we read of some poor boxer who collapses and dies after a boxing bout as a result of repeated blows to the head. Moreover, we know—it is a medical fact—that blows to the head have a cumulative and devastating effect. Twenty years on and the commonly referred to condition of being punch drunk are all too easy to recognize, even to a lay person: slurred speech, unsteady legs, lapses of memory, violent tendencies, and the general appearance of having had a few too many. Punch drunk seems such a frivolous term to use for such an array of problems.

A few years ago the British Medical Association defined boxing “as a contest in which the winner seems to be the one who produces more brain damage on his opponent than he himself sustains.”

Over the years boxing has been made safer, not safe. Shorter bouts, less frequent contests, and fewer mismatches reduce the problems. Ironically, the introduction of headgear in amateur events makes the head a bigger target. There is only one way to make boxing safe: to take the head out of the target area. Would that not make it a spectacle of more athletic ability and skill? Supporters of the sport freely admit that it would take half the fun away.

The notion that boxers are free to choose if they wish to have their heads beaten in is inarguable. I tend to think that boxing is kept alive by the people who have a vested interest in it—the managers and promoters.

