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Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary

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- Scoring Guideline**
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AP® Research Academic Paper 2020 Scoring Guidelines

The Response...				
Score of 1 Report on Existing Knowledge	Score of 2 Report on Existing Knowledge with Simplistic Use of a Research Method	Score of 3 Ineffectual Argument for a New Understanding	Score of 4 Well-Supported, Articulate Argument Conveying a New Understanding	Score of 5 Rich Analysis of a New Understanding Addressing a Gap in the Research Base
Presents an overly broad topic of inquiry.	Presents a topic of inquiry with narrowing scope or focus, that is NOT carried through either in the method or in the overall line of reasoning.	Carries the focus or scope of a topic of inquiry through the method AND overall line of reasoning, even though the focus or scope might still be narrowing.	Focuses a topic of inquiry with clear and narrow parameters, which are addressed through the method and the conclusion.	Focuses a topic of inquiry with clear and narrow parameters, which are addressed through the method and the conclusion.
Situates a topic of inquiry within a single perspective derived from scholarly works OR through a variety of perspectives derived from mostly non-scholarly works.	Situates a topic of inquiry within a single perspective derived from scholarly works OR through a variety of perspectives derived from mostly non-scholarly works.	Situates a topic of inquiry within relevant scholarly works of varying perspectives, although connections to some works may be unclear.	Explicitly connects a topic of inquiry to relevant scholarly works of varying perspectives AND logically explains how the topic of inquiry addresses a gap.	Explicitly connects a topic of inquiry to relevant scholarly works of varying perspectives AND logically explains how the topic of inquiry addresses a gap.
Describes a search and report process.	Describes a nonreplicable research method OR provides an oversimplified description of a method, with questionable alignment to the purpose of the inquiry.	Describes a reasonably replicable research method, with questionable alignment to the purpose of the inquiry.	Logically defends the alignment of a detailed, replicable research method to the purpose of the inquiry.	Logically defends the alignment of a detailed, replicable research method to the purpose of the inquiry.
Summarizes or reports existing knowledge in the field of understanding pertaining to the topic of inquiry.	Summarizes or reports existing knowledge in the field of understanding pertaining to the topic of inquiry.	Conveys a new understanding or conclusion, with an underdeveloped line of reasoning OR insufficient evidence.	Supports a new understanding or conclusion through a logically organized line of reasoning AND sufficient evidence. The limitations and/or implications, if present, of the new understanding or conclusion are oversimplified.	Justifies a new understanding or conclusion through a logical progression of inquiry choices, sufficient evidence, explanation of the limitations of the conclusion, and an explanation of the implications to the community of practice.
Generally communicates the student’s ideas, although errors in grammar, discipline-specific style, and organization distract or confuse the reader.	Generally communicates the student’s ideas, although errors in grammar, discipline-specific style, and organization distract or confuse the reader.	Competently communicates the student’s ideas, although there may be some errors in grammar, discipline-specific style, and organization.	Competently communicates the student’s ideas, although there may be some errors in grammar, discipline-specific style, and organization.	Enhances the communication of the student’s ideas through organization, use of design elements, conventions of grammar, style, mechanics, and word precision, with few to no errors.
Cites AND/OR attributes sources (in bibliography/ works cited and/or in-text), with multiple errors and/or an inconsistent use of a discipline-specific style.	Cites AND/OR attributes sources (in bibliography/ works cited and/or in-text), with multiple errors and/or an inconsistent use of a discipline-specific style.	Cites AND attributes sources, using a discipline-specific style (in both bibliography/works cited AND in-text), with few errors or inconsistencies.	Cites AND attributes sources, with a consistent use of an appropriate discipline-specific style (in both bibliography/works cited AND in-text), with few to no errors.	Cites AND attributes sources, with a consistent use of an appropriate discipline-specific style (in both bibliography/works cited AND in-text), with few to no errors.

Academic Paper

Overview

This performance task was intended to assess students' ability to conduct scholarly and responsible research and articulate an evidence-based argument that clearly communicates the conclusion, solution, or answer to their stated research question. More specifically, this performance task was intended to assess students' ability to:

- Generate a focused research question that is situated within or connected to a larger scholarly context or community;
- Explore relationships between and among multiple works representing multiple perspectives within the scholarly literature related to the topic of inquiry;
- Articulate what approach, method, or process they have chosen to use to address their research question, why they have chosen that approach to answering their question, and how they employed it;
- Develop and present their own argument, conclusion, or new understanding while acknowledging its limitations and discussing implications;
- Support their conclusion through the compilation, use, and synthesis of relevant and significant evidence generated by their research;
- Use organizational and design elements to effectively convey the paper's message;
- Consistently and accurately cite, attribute, and integrate the knowledge and work of others, while distinguishing between their voice and that of others; and
- Generate a paper in which word choice and syntax enhance communication by adhering to established conventions of grammar, usage, and mechanics.

New Coverage and Worker Impact on Health and Safety in the meat packing/slaughterhouse industry.

Word Count: 4778

Abstract

This study looks at research towards how the health and safety in workers is maintained in slaughterhouses and meat packing plants in Nebraska and how they have varied within the past 5 years. Also if there is an appropriate amount of news coverage towards the slaughterhouses or do they need to cover more of what the meat industry does to the health and safety of workers, showing if the news is being biased or unbiased in a positive or negative way. Prior research shows the statistics of health or safety in meatpacking plants and slaughterhouses. The meat industry is known to show very dirty conditions in the past which determines the condition of a workers health or safety. The health and safety of the workers and cleanliness of the building can also determine the quality of meat being produced in these companies. According to some articles, the meat industry has improved dramatically with the health and safety but nothing shows how the workers are being affected. Research does not show connections to health and safety and also how those statistics are being presented to the public to open the public eye towards the meat industry. Data was collected through many databases and news article analysis, pulling me towards a content analysis research design and method. The content analysis method is a usage of qualitative data. My qualitative data comes from databases showing statistics of the workplace injuries and health concerns covering the health and safety aspects of my research, this will tie in with the people's perception that are described in new coverage. The qualitative data comes from information that is given in news articles covering conditions in the meat industry and also the amount of new articles that cover the meat industry. In this study, meatpacking workers, safety and health, and news sources were included. Initial results showed that the comparison of health, injuries and illnesses do not vary much and stay

equally the same within all meat industry companies and that the news articles show negative, unbiased news coverage towards the health, illness and injuries in the meat industry, this means that there is not a serious concern in the meat industry when coming in the injuries topic, but in illness, according to the news coverage, there is a problem with the illness spectrum.

Keywords:

- Abattoir: A slaughterhouse
- Stress: an emotion tension that makes you feel angry, frustrated or nervous
- Health Psychology: the study of psychological behavior towards health and illness
- Occupational Injury: the cause of an injury from working
- Laceration: a deep cut or tear within your skin
- Meat-packing industry: the industry that controls the process of slaughtering, processing, packaging and distributing meat
- Bias: phrases or words that are considered prejudice against a person, group or thing.

Introduction

There are many people that work in many areas of a slaughterhouse and meat packing industries. Due to the very fast working conditions, slaughter of animals, safety, health and other factors. Slaughterhouse workers can develop mental physical factors which go into the health of the worker. Also due to working with exposed, potentially infected meats, dirty work environments and potentially infected animals, slaughterhouse workers may develop illnesses and infections from the animals. Bringing up my topic that will be addressed in this research is, the effects of illness and injuries on employees working in the meat industry and how news

sources are deciding to cover that topic. This research is made to find and analyze data to the health, illnesses, injuries and also safety concerns in the meat industry. This research looks at meat packing plants and slaughterhouses in Nebraska, United States. Also because this research is done to also look at how the news covers the meat industry in the aspects of health and safety, I will also be analyzing Nebraska's local news sources for more detailed and accurate news articles that are provided covering the meat industry. This topic can be very intriguing because of many reasons. One of some reasons is because of social media influencing, social media can have many information, false or true, many social media platforms have covered the meat industry as a whole, but one thing that I see that is not talked about often is that of the workers and their health and safety. This is concerning because of how open news sources are to the treatment of animals, but when you think about it, there is not many information that covers the environment that workers work in, which is why this topic will be combining the health and safety of workers and the level of bias or unbiased news sources are towards the workers. The health of safety workers also includes physiological and mental stress of the worker, knowing how cruel or uncruel the meat industry can be can really affect the mentality of a slaughterhouse worker, adding to the topic and more questions on the health and safety of the worker. Especially with the current climate of my topic, we can see with the COVID-19 pandemic, news sources across the United States are shifting focus onto meatpacking plants, because a part of my research focuses on the health of a meat industry worker, I will be mentioning the COVID-19 pandemic and exposing certain meat industry businesses in order to correlate enough evidence to the news coverage on those businesses.

Adding onto the many reasons for my research, I may include the amount of danger that occurs in the meat industry adding facts to the safety portion of my research. Generally the meat industry has a fast paced work environment in order to keep up with the on growing demand of meat products in the United States. In order to complete tasks given in slaughterhouses and meat packing plants, there is a large use of tools such as sharp objects. Adding to how dangerous the meat industry can be, there can be assumptions made to the possible health concerns meat industry workers have to face. Workers in the meat industry work with animals, animals that are raised in captivity can obtain and spread sicknesses from overcrowding quickly, animal to animal. Health concerns may arise when workers are working alongside sick animals, also because they are working with blood, animal waste, and exposed meat which can cause contamination of some type.

There are obviously many laws and regulations that are established by the United States government. Such laws may include the regulation of the amount of animals able to be consumed and keeping certain ratios. Some other laws and regulations added onto the meat industry is to keep the slaughterhouses and meat packing plants sanitary, as well as certain protocols being followed in order to keep the plants as sanitary as can be, though the plants are working 24 hours a day and assuming of those circumstances, they are not going to be stopping production to go through those protocols. We know that there is a problem within the sanitary conditions in the meat industry, where there are obvious health and safety concerns due to things like, dirty floors causing slippery conditions. These sanitary conditions may be affecting meat industry workers, this may result in sick and hurt employees. There is also a problem within the safety protocols in the meat industry. This becomes a more serious issue because of the equipment that is used in the

industry, like I said before. It affects the employees especially if they get hurt working with that equipment. There is where the question comes if the laws and regulations are being strict enough to the meat industry businesses. Because of the lack of strictness of the laws and regulations towards the meat industry companies, it is more likely for workers to not report any injuries or illnesses caused from working in the industry. Workers do not feel obligated to report any injury or illnesses creating data to be less accurate in research that I am using for my research that was conducted before, also making my research less accurate. Because I am using research that has been already conducted for my research, I will be using the content analysis method in order to analyze data and use information for my research. This research will use secondary sources to answer my research question, using secondary sources will help me find and combine data from the meat industry in Nebraska, United States in the past five year (2015-2020) and connect it to the workers working in the meat industry in order to find the physical, mental, stressors and more that come within working in the meat industry (slaughterhouses and meat packing plants). I will also be looking at Nebraska's local news sources and analyze their news articles in order to find if their new coverage stories towards the meat industry is biased or unbiased and if their stories are viewing the meat industry in a negative or positive way. Though this research may be clear in some areas, the meat industry may be indistinct in other areas, like the injuries or health concerns that employees do not report, and the reason and categories in which those unreported injuries or health concerns may fall into.

There are words that may need to be defined along this research following the slaughterhouse terms and other health and safety definitions that may be included in the research paper. This will be found under the abstract.

Literature Review

A variety of studies and research have been done to address injuries and illnesses caused by working in the meat packing/slaughterhouse industry. Due to the very fast paced working conditions, killing of animals, safety, health and other factors, slaughterhouse workers can develop mental and physical problems. Also, due to working with exposed meats and potentially infected animals, slaughterhouse workers may develop illnesses and infections from those animals. This brings up my topic that I will be addressing in this research, the effects of illness and injuries on employees working in meat packing/slaughterhouses factories. This research topic will find an answer to health, illnesses, injuries and also safety concerns in meat packing industries, how have they been addressed in the last 5 years, especially in Nebraska, United States meatpacking companies. Also the answer of how and what laws have been put into place to affect illnesses, injuries, safety, and health within the meatpacking plants. I have found this to be interesting because of many reasons. One reason is due to hearing experiences and being influenced on social media, we have opened a door into the reality of slaughterhouses care for animals and their health and safety concerns, but we really have been blind to the effects that takes upon employees of slaughterhouses and what they have to go through in order to provide and work in those slaughterhouses. Also there hasn't been a lot of news coverage on illnesses or serious injuries in the slaughterhouse injuries. To review my literature that looks toward the injuries, I found a research article by, Jessica H. Leibler, showing the self-reported occupational injuries in the midwest in slaughterhouse workers. I found that about 33% of workers get an

occupational injury in the span of three months. 16% of workers that are injured are injured in the hand, fingers or wrist. 16% of workers rush and because they rush, get injured. Most of the workers, which is 5% of the workers, get injured by hanging meat on hooks. Now looking back to the 16% of workers injured from rushing in the job there is another article by Emil Sundstrup talking about the high intensity physical exercise in the slaughterhouse workers. We may know that slaughterhouses may be indeed dangerous especially due to the fact that these slaughterhouses are fast paced due to demand, and there is so much equipment and sharp objects used daily within these slaughterhouses. According to the research article, out of the workers working in that specific plant only 49% do physical exercise. I can make an assumption that because most of the workers are not usually active, that they are getting injured by rushing because they are not used to working in a fast paced environment of the slaughterhouses. Some other similar data found in the Physical Exercise research to the Occupational Injuries research is the comparison of the pain from working in a slaughterhouse. In the research article the table states that 48% of the workers experience neck pain, 60% experience shoulder pain, 40% experience neck pain. Another comparison that can be made from both these research articles is that in the occupation injuries research it said that 16% of the workers were injured in the hand, fingers or wrist. In the Physical Exercise research, 52% of the workers experience hand or wrist pain. Now we can infer by connecting the information that because 52% of the workers that experience hand or wrist pain end up being injured causing a 16% outcome. Now remember that because the Occupational Injuries research was only about self-reported injuries, that the 16% may be higher especially since the hand or wrist pain is so much higher in the Physical Exercise research. Now in some data I found from the Bureau of Labor Statics based in Nebraska, there is

some data of 2016, 2017. In the data under events or exposure, the “contact with objects and equipment” there is an 11% occurrence in the 2016/2017 outcome. This data though comes from all different types of workplaces but includes agriculture workers. We can infer that the 11% has correlation with the 33% of workers that get an occupational injury (first article mentioned) and an average of 50% of those have pain (second article mentioned) mostly because this all has to do with an injury caused in agriculture work. So you may ask, how would injury and illness correlate with each other, in this instance, I will be looking more into illness, as in mental illness and sickness. In another article by Jessica H. Leibler about the psychological distress among slaughterhouse workers and can make comparisons on how illness and injuries can correlate within this topic. In slaughterhouses we know that workers are working in either killing animals, and constantly being reminded that a possible fatal or nonfatal injury might happen from working in the slaughterhouse/meat packing industry. According to the article, working in fast paced conditions especially here in the slaughterhouses of the United States, it is proven that working in a fast paced environment can cause anxiety. In this article it also thought that there might be a correlation between the mental health of a person and the occupational injuries caused within the industry. They themselves could not find the correlation so it is hard to prove that. Stats in this article include that men compared to women have a lower Serious Psychological Distress (SPD), have a higher Mild Psychological Distress (MPD), and lower No Psychological Distress (NPD). Non-hispanics compared to Hispanics have a higher SPD, higher MPD, and lower NPD. Within age, 35-44 of age have a higher SPD, 18-24 of age have a higher MPD, and 45-64 of age have a higher NPD. Looking in the work area, on the kill floor to cut the floor, have a higher SPD, higher MPD, and lower NPD. This shows in the last statistics that the kill floor

usually results in a larger psychological distress outcome. Especially since both the SPD and MPD were higher than those in the cut floor. This comes to mention that I can make the assumption that when working with live animals it can result in a higher effect on mental health. How may the kill floor result in illness other than mental illness? Like I said before, slaughterhouse workers are working with live animals that are then slaughtered. Workers are then exposed to blood and other body parts. In an article by Jeanne A. Jordan there is a research article about workers working amongst infected cattle with *Staphylococcus aureus*. This comes to my research of the illness that comes with working in a slaughterhouse. According to this research, the infection that is carried within the livestock in that specific plant was not affecting the workers. Workers were known to adapt to this or fight off the infection before it affected the worker. This comes to question, is there any other infection that can be carried in livestock that does affect the worker? Raw meat can have infection therefore we can find out if meatpacking workers can catch an infection by packing the raw meat. We can make a prediction that there are a lot of health concerns towards employees whilst working with possibly sick animals, blood, animal liquids and exposed meats. Infections and illnesses may be spread amongst the employees of these slaughterhouses from the animals. In Safety and Health Topics, there is a Hazards and Solutions list. Biological agents are on this list. It says that workers working with freshly slaughtered meat comes with a risk of being exposed to a possibly ill animal. This can affect the worker with skin infections, the flu, stomach infections, and occasionally come with more serious illnesses. Also, an increase in lung cancer has been noticed among slaughterhouse workers, that may be caused by working with the exposed meat or even with the chemicals used among the meat, but still, that is an assumption made, they still do not truly understand why lung

cancer has shown up amongst the workers. We know that there is a problem within the sanitary conditions in the meatpacking industry, where there are obvious health concerns due to dirty floors and other sanitary reasons. These sanitary conditions may be affecting slaughterhouse workers, this may result in sick employees. There is also a problem within the safety protocols in these slaughterhouses/meat packing industries. This becomes a great issue because of the equipment used within this industry. It also becomes a greater issue when employees get hurt and especially when they do not report their injuries. Other things that this list mentions in the Hazards and Solutions text is that workers work with hazardous chemicals, especially among cleaning crews. Some specific hazardous chemicals used that may cause effects on workers include, ammonia, chlorine, carbon dioxide, hydrogen peroxide and peracetic acid. Though this research may become clear in some areas, the meatpacking industry may be blurry in other areas like the injuries that employees do not report, and reasons for not reporting injuries in the workplace. This may draw questions to the source like, are slaughterhouses really safe or unsafe? Needing more clarity in those topics may be a huge impact towards this research. I anticipate that the slaughterhouse industry may have some issues within protocols following the safety and health of their employees. But in order to not make this biased assumption, I will take into consideration other factors in where the research may be indistinct.

Methods

My research conducted a content analysis method paper. This inputs many secondary research articles in order to gather information, as well as other sources that have been listed in the literature review and will be listed later in this section. In this content analysis method I am looking mostly at qualitative data in order to compare numbers related to health and safety but in

the news source data analysis I will also focus on quantitative data. In order to gather information of the illnesses and injuries caused within Nebraska meat packing plants and/or slaughterhouses, research articles that conducted a cross-sectional study were key because information given in those articles was plentiful especially when compared to statistical data tables in those research papers, this is where I will be retrieving the majority of my qualitative data. Another key resource for my research are news articles that come from multiple local news sources in Nebraska. This research was conducted for meatpacking plants and slaughter houses in Nebraska for the amount of meatpacking plants and slaughterhouses that administer there, also Nebraska is rich in detailed news articles, which I thought was perfect to find a sufficient amount of news articles that covered the meat industry topic. The research articles that I included in the literature review have many data that supports the health and safety of meat industry workers, from ethnicity, sex, age, and work area. Those topics of data will not be used within my research because I am focused primarily in the health and safety of all workers in general. The ethnicity, sex, age and work area does not correlate with the health and safety of a worker, this research looks primarily at the meat plants as a whole.

This research has gone through many phases. Towards December of 2019 the research focused primarily on research papers that were published from 2016 to 2019 that covered research of illnesses and injuries in meat industry workers. Due to the current climate, I decided to shift my work to primarily focus on the News Sources that covered the health of slaughterhouse workers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we can see from new sources that the meat industry can be affected health wise from a pandemic like now. Though my research focused on the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to keep the research similar to what was started with, there are still all aspects

of the research from gathering information from research papers done in the past, this research is still focusing on both the health and safety of the meat industry workers. This shift of research can also maximize the gap in my research but is crucial to adding information towards the health in the meat industry, especially because there is sufficient information gathered to the safety of the employees working in the meat industry. Unreported injuries and illnesses in the meat industry affect my research and because of the shift into the COVID-19 false information given by any of Nebraska's New articles can also add into misinformation and gap of my research, in order for my method to not fail, I will have to find many sources that can confirm any of the data I collected for my research so I can use it and say it is a reliable source of information. The research question of my research has also undergone a big shift. Starting with the research being focused on male workers, this was changed due to the fact that I wanted to focus more on illnesses and injuries more as a whole meat industry and less on the sex of a participant. The question before made it harder to focus on the news and the injuries and illnesses going on as a whole. Because of the current climate of the COVID-19 pandemic, the past research question would not have worked like before. Only because like I said, focused more on only the male workers. With the new research question we know that the COVID-19 pandemic affects both sexes, and we can add even more information to the correlation and analysis of the news sources in Nebraska especially because the meat industry became very trendy with the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of this research will focus on data collected from 2015-2020, including most of the information coming from the current climate of the COVID-19 pandemic, this current climate also add information on news articles from 2015-2020, especially because of past news articles, and now the COVID-19 pandemic is very controversial in news sources towards

certain meat industry companies politically and economically, we need to see how the COVID-19 news coverage focuses more on the workers on the meat industry and less on it politically and economically. Time is key here, because the deadline of my research is slowly creeping up, gathering sufficient data from recently published research of the COVID-19 and the recent news articles of Nebraska's meat industry is crucial in order to find the appropriate results to my research question.

Results

Finding 4 sources that covered injuries or illnesses in four different meat industry plants. 3 sources covered that there were 137 workers being surveyed, 1 didn't say. In the 3 sources, 40 surveyed worked on the kill floor and 71 surveyed worked on the cut floor. The research found that most workers injured have been injured on the arms. Regarding health, not many get sick from the exposed meat as the researcher thought they would. Regarding their psychological stress, most workers do not experience any psychological distress from working in the meat industry. Throughout the four sources, two of which covered the injuries, and 2 of them covering their health, all had similar results, and may not be as fatal as previously thought. This might justify how there were not many news sources to use when looking. There is no new research covering the COVID-19 pandemic in the meat industry, only new coverage. Therefore the health, injuries and illness do not have much difference in the four meat industry companies in which research has been conducted in the past 5 years.

Reviewing any news sources that had to do before the COVID-19 pandemic. In a news articles called "increased line speed, deregulation confront meatpacking workers" from a source named *journal star* in a Nebraska news source, they describe that current politicians have

authorized higher speed in production lines, also they have reduced government regulation in the meat industry, compared to the data from the research sources, many of the meat industry companies might have lower injury rates in comparison to the information from the news articles. There is already repetitive movement that causes injury in a meat packing work environment, with increased speeds, the meat packing workers will increase the amount of movements done, making them more susceptible to injury. Also in the same sources it is said that while the “kill” number increases, the amount of time in a shift decreases, making the production speeds higher with less time to accomplish it. This news article covers their story in a negative way, though they have a lot of sources to back up their views, it is certainly not biased. Another news article that is called “We Don’t Know How Many Workers Are Injured At Slaughterhouses. Here’s Why?” from a source called *Nebraska’s PBS & NPR Station* shows pretty much the same thing as the last article, where there is an increase of line production speeds and causing more injuries to occur. There are many reasons for injuries to be high in the meat industry, but there is also a problem where there are workers that are not reporting their injuries for many reasons. Many include, working for a third-party contractor, medical staff on-site tell workers to return for work without seeing a doctor for pain, workers are often immigrants and do not report injuries from trying to protect their jobs or limit their speaking abilities of a different language. This article does not have many sources to refer from, though they do not use much data, I believe that the news article is unbiased, and shows the meat industry in a negative way.

Though now because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there has been a bit of news coverage on the meat industry and how they have handled their employees during the outbreak. Two news sources show unbiased negative reports towards the meat industry and their responses of the

COVID-19 pandemic. Journal star released a news article called, "Local View: No one protecting the workers." Though this article shows more political bias, information given in this article is not biased towards the meat industry and gives pure, backed up information. This article does not talk much about the workers and how they are impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. From the same news sources, another news article that was released called, "Nebraska meatpacking worker advocates seek workplace protections" this article shows more of what people and the government are trying to do to protect the workers in the meat industry. This source would be more of an unbiased, positive article that covers the meat industry, because it is saying that the meat packing companies are putting in effort in order to protect the workers. Two more news articles have been retrieved from a news source called *Omaha World-Herald*, which is another local news source of Nebraska. One of the news articles is called, "Meatpacking workers account for one in six coronavirus cases; Nebraska's total cases top 7,000." It is an unbiased, negative article towards the meat industry, it does not speak much about the workers' infection of the COVID-19 but mostly about the actual companies and how they are handling the pandemic. The second article is called, "To understand the danger of COVID-19 outbreaks in meatpacking plants, look at the industry's history." This article is an unbiased, negative article towards the meat industry and talks about the dangers of working in the meat industry and how COVID-19 makes it even more dangerous.

Discussion/Conclusion

Injuries, illnesses and health do not vary much from the four sources that were gathered in four anonymous meat industry companies, from sources that gathered their data from 2015-2020 (past five years). News sources were not very extensive to information on the health and safety of

workers working in the meat industry as there should be. The News articles that came up mostly brought up negative information towards the meat industry and how they maintain health and safety towards their employees, and also the news articles did not seem to have any biased information given towards the information of the health and safety of the meat industry. Though sources may not have been very thorough and might have had gaps in their research, data came in a gave me the conclusion that the health and safety of an employee working in the meat industry may be extensive, but it does not vary amongst all four meat industry companies, saying that there has to be something to change in order to protect the health and safety of the workers. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meat packing/slaughterhouse companies have become a big hotspot to the spread of the virus. Information that came in from the news articles regarding the COVID-19 virus shows that the meat industry is not caring much for the pandemic, and also from the news articles that talk about the COVID-19 do not talk much about the workers working in the plants, only about the number of cases, and the politics and business perspective of it. This shows that news articles are covering the health and safety of meat industry companies but not much on how the employees working in those meat companies are being affected by any health and safety concern. Reliability was a concern using the content analysis method, in order to overcome the reliability issues I narrowed down the usage of peer-reviewed sources to four research papers and used local news sources of Nebraska to gather complete, unbiased information from those new sources instead of, most likely, unreliable, national, news sources. In order to complete further research regarding the topic of health and safety of workers of the meat industry and how they are covered by news articles, there can be more quantitative, on-site research collected in several meat industry companies that survey employees and their views on

their health and safety. Also, local and national news sources may be surveyed in order to see how the process of covering the meat industry and especially their workers, works.

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Peer-reviewed Database sources:

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Academic Paper

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Sample: G

Score: 2

New Coverage and Worker Impact on Health and Safety in the Meat packing/Slaughterhouse Industry

This paper earned a score of 2 because there is a topic identified (page 3-4) which is “the effects of illness and injuries on employees working in the meat industry and how news sources are deciding to cover that topic.” The topic is further defined on page 4 stating that “this topic will be combining the health and safety of workers and the level of bias or unbiased news sources are towards the workers.” The paper has a narrowing topic because it limits the topic to meat packing plants in Nebraska.

The paper didn’t earn a score of 1 because there is a narrowing topic, but it is not carried through the method. The paper also didn’t earn a score of 1 because there is a method present (pages 11-12), even though the method is not reasonably replicable.

The paper didn’t earn a score of 3 as the method is not reasonably replicable because there are no details on which news articles were chosen or why. There is also no criteria for analyzing the selected news articles. The paper also didn’t earn a score of 3 because there is changing/meandering focus. For instance, the paper introduces an additional topic of “how and what laws have been put into place to affect illnesses, injuries, safety, and health within the meatpacking plants” on page 7. In addition, there were references to COVID-19, but they weren’t logically integrated with the author’s original topic.