

QUESTION 1

In groups, look at the 3 AI answers below. The first concerns the rhetorical situation, the second persuasive strategies, and the third evaluation of strengths and weaknesses. Evaluate the accuracy, usefulness, and strengths/weaknesses of the answers. Skim the rhetorical situation, and spend most of your time on evaluation. Include any other thoughts you had about them.

PROMPT 1: What is the rhetorical situation for Hari's text? That is, who is the author, when was it written, who is the audience, what is his purpose, and what kind of text is this?

AI ANSWER: Rhetorical Situation of Hari's Text

- **Author:** Johann Hari
 - **Date Written:** January 20, 2015²
 - **Type of Text:** Online article for the *Huffington Post*²
 - **Audience:** General audience interested in addiction.
 - This is suggested by the publication in a mainstream online publication like the *Huffington Post*, which targets a broad readership².
 - Hari directly addresses the audience throughout, assuming a level of shared knowledge about addiction while introducing complex scientific studies in an accessible way, suggesting he's writing for a non-expert audience³⁴.
 - **Purpose:** To challenge conventional beliefs about drug addiction and propose a new understanding focused on human connection. Hari states his purpose explicitly: "almost everything we have been told about addiction is wrong — and there is a very different story waiting for us, if only we are ready to hear it"².
 - He aims to persuade the audience that addiction is not primarily caused by chemical hooks, as commonly believed²⁵.
 - He presents scientific evidence, historical examples, and personal anecdotes to support his argument that addiction stems from a lack of social connection and that the solution lies in fostering stronger bonds between individuals and society⁶⁷⁸⁹.
 - He ultimately advocates for a more humane and effective approach to addressing addiction, moving away from the "war on drugs" towards a model of social reintegration and love .
- Hari uses his personal experiences with addiction to connect with the audience and establish his credibility¹⁰¹¹. By sharing his journey of discovering the true nature of addiction, he invites readers to question their assumptions and consider an alternative perspective.⁴¹² His use of personal anecdotes, combined with scientific research, historical events, and social commentary, creates a compelling and persuasive argument for a paradigm shift in how we understand and address addiction.

<https://notebooklm.google.com/notebook/2825046d-3817-402f-8208-53999e65e3df>

PROMPT 2: What persuasive strategies does Hari use to impact his audience?

AI ANSWER

Hari uses several persuasive strategies to convince his audience that addiction is primarily caused by a lack of social connection, not just chemical hooks:

- **Appeals to Ethos (credibility):**

Hari establishes his authority by mentioning his extensive research for his book, *Chasing the Scream: The First and Last Days of the War on Drugs*, in which he traveled 30,000 miles to understand the roots of addiction¹.

He further builds credibility by citing renowned experts and researchers such as Bruce Alexander, Gabor Mate, Peter Cohen, and Richard DeGrandpre, strengthening his claims with recognized authorities in the field²³⁴.

Hari also draws on personal anecdotes, sharing his experiences with addiction within his own family and relationships, enabling the audience to connect with him on an emotional level and making his argument more relatable⁵⁶.

- **Appeals to Logos (logic and reasoning):**

Hari presents a logical progression of ideas, starting with the commonly held belief that drugs themselves are the primary cause of addiction⁶.

He then introduces scientific evidence that challenges this notion, such as the Rat Park experiment by Bruce Alexander²⁷. This experiment, comparing isolated rats to those in a stimulating environment, demonstrates that social isolation plays a key role in addiction.

Hari further supports his argument with the example of American soldiers in Vietnam who were addicted to heroin but stopped using upon returning to a supportive environment³⁸.

He uses the example of medical patients receiving diamorphine (heroin) for pain management, who rarely become addicted, to emphasize the importance of social context and positive reinforcement⁹¹⁰.

He draws parallels between drug addiction and behavioral addictions like gambling, arguing that the absence of chemical hooks in gambling further proves his point about the significance of social connection¹¹.

- **Appeals to Pathos (emotions):**

Hari uses vivid imagery and emotionally charged language to engage the reader. He describes the addicts he encountered with compassion and empathy, emphasizing their humanity and challenging the stigmatization associated with addiction⁵¹²¹³.

He uses the metaphor of a "cage" to represent the isolation and despair that contribute to addiction, creating a powerful visual representation of his argument⁴.

He contrasts the harsh realities of the "war on drugs" with the compassionate approach taken in Portugal, where decriminalization and social reintegration have led to a significant decrease in addiction rates . This contrast evokes hope and optimism for a more humane and effective solution to addiction.

- **Direct Address and Inclusive Language:**

Hari directly addresses the audience throughout the article, using "you" and "we" to create a sense of inclusivity and invite introspection⁶⁹. This approach makes the reader active participants in his argument, encouraging them to question their own assumptions about addiction. He concludes the article with a call to action, urging readers to reconsider their attitudes towards addicts and to foster a more connected and compassionate society¹⁰. By appealing to the reader's sense of compassion and justice, Hari strengthens his argument for a more humane and effective approach to addiction.

Through these persuasive strategies, Hari effectively challenges the traditional narrative surrounding addiction and presents a compelling case for understanding and addressing it as a social problem rather than solely an individual failing. He leaves the reader with a sense of responsibility and hope, prompting them to consider the importance of human connection in their own lives and in the fight against addiction.

PROMPT 3: Play devil's advocate and describe any potential flaws, limitations, weaknesses, gaps, or shortcomings in Hari's argument

AI ANSWER

While Hari presents a compelling and thought-provoking perspective on addiction, some potential flaws and limitations should be considered:

- **Oversimplification of a Complex Issue:** Hari's central argument—that addiction is primarily driven by a lack of social connection—risks oversimplifying the multifaceted nature of addiction. While social isolation and trauma undoubtedly contribute to addiction for many, other factors like genetics, personality predisposition, mental health disorders, and the specific properties of the drug itself also play significant roles. By focusing primarily on social connection, Hari might downplay the complexity of these other contributing factors and their interaction in addiction development¹²³⁴⁵.

- **Generalization from Limited Examples:** Hari supports his argument with compelling anecdotes and specific studies like the Rat Park experiment and the case of Vietnam War veterans⁶⁷⁸. However, generalizing these findings to all addiction cases is problematic. Individual experiences with addiction are diverse and influenced by a range of personal, social, and biological factors that these examples might not fully encapsulate. Applying conclusions drawn from specific cases too broadly can lead to an incomplete understanding of addiction's diverse manifestations²³⁶⁷⁸.
- **Lack of Emphasis on Individual Agency:** Hari's emphasis on social and environmental factors, while important, could potentially overshadow the role of individual agency in addiction and recovery. While acknowledging the powerful influence of social conditions, it's crucial to recognize that individuals still possess the capacity to make choices, even within challenging circumstances⁹¹⁰¹¹¹². A more nuanced perspective would acknowledge both the external pressures and the internal struggles individuals face in their journeys with addiction.
- **Potential for Misinterpretation of "Connection":** Hari advocates for social connection as the antidote to addiction, but the concept of "connection" can be subjectively interpreted¹³¹⁴¹⁵. What constitutes a meaningful connection varies greatly from person to person. Simply providing social interaction without addressing the underlying reasons for seeking solace in drugs or behaviors might not be sufficient for sustained recovery. A more nuanced approach would involve exploring and addressing individual needs and motivations for seeking "connection"¹³¹⁴¹⁵.
- **Overly Optimistic View of Decriminalization:** Hari highlights Portugal's success with drug decriminalization as evidence for his approach, suggesting it led to a significant decrease in addiction rates . While Portugal's model demonstrates positive outcomes, it's crucial to recognize that replicating its success in other social and cultural contexts might come with its own challenges. Factors like resource allocation for social support systems, cultural attitudes towards drug use, and the availability of alternative treatments all influence a decriminalization policy's effectiveness. A nuanced perspective would acknowledge these complexities and avoid presenting decriminalization as a universal solution .

In conclusion, while Hari's emphasis on social connection offers a valuable contribution to the conversation about addiction, it's important to approach his arguments with a critical lens, recognizing the inherent complexities of addiction and the potential limitations of his perspective.

Evaluating AI Output

Gp 1 Chris Herse, Cole Janowicz, Blake Willing 1. AI didn't go into depth much and only gave a brief summary. It mentioned key points like identifying the audience and giving the authors name and general background. 2. The AI does a very good job of incorporating all of the persuasive strategies and is very clear about how the evidence supports his strategies. The AI includes logos, pathos and ethos gives multiple examples for each one. Overall I definitely think it is a good evaluation of the author's persuasive strategies. 3. AI did a good job of pointing out several weaknesses but does not realize Hari probably is not writing 10 more pages about this. Hari includes experiments and personal anecdotes which gives his opinion on it, and persuades the reader more than what AI gives credit for. It does a good job of playing devil's advocate however, going against Hari well.	Gp 2 - Sofia Durrani, Tyler Egan-Earle, Claire Williams Prompt 1: The AI does a decent job of summarizing the main purpose of the article but doesn't go too much in depth. It mentions how "he ultimately advocates for a more humane and effective approach to addressing addiction, moving away from the "war on drugs" towards a model of social reintegration and love"—which is accurate to what Hari argued in his article. Prompt 2: AI highlights the main persuasive strategies used by Hari, the AI shows examples as well as elaboration on why the author utilizes these tools and the effect they have on the audience. Prompt 3: AI did a response to the things Harari did good and bad in the text and highlighted where he could improve. It focussed on his potential downfalls in the text, and states things he should have considered.
Gp 3 Kai, Josie, Marco 1. AI does well summing up the purpose of the article, however it doesn't use a lot of quotations to back up its claim. It also fails to give a background to who the author is besides his name and gives a very general description of who the audience is. AI added numbers into its text and got the date of the article wrong. 2. Hari effectively uses persuasive strategies like building credibility by citing experts and sharing personal anecdotes. He uses logic with examples like the Rat Park experiment and soldiers overcoming addiction, and he appeals to emotions by describing addicts with compassion and using the metaphor of a "cage" for isolation. He also speaks directly to readers, encouraging them to rethink addiction.	Gp 4 Catherine Ishaq, Eli Griffith, Christian Estefanos 1. The AI written responses to the prompt does a good enough job of hitting the main points, assessing the article and author, and then shadows the overall purpose and motive of of the text in relevance to the prompt. Could use more about who Hari is. 2. The AI response clearly identifies the different use of strategies as well as lists the distinguishments between them. 3. For the third prompt, of the A.I. playing the devil's advocate, it brings up a lot of fair points about the downsides of this article by Hari. It actually came up with some ideas that I had not thought of, such as the issue of the "Lack of Emphasis on individual agency."

Something he could work on is, finding how it could explore how effective they are for different audiences.	
Gp 5 Alejandro ceden, Lexi Salfiti Parker Eidhuber Prompt 1: The AI answers are mostly clear and helpful but have some weak spots. The description of the rhetorical situation is solid, but it could explain more about who the audience is. The weaknesses section points out that Hari oversimplifies and generalizes but doesn't go too into depth about how it really affects the overall argument. Prompt 2: The persuasive strategies section does a good job showing how Hari uses credibility, logic, and emotion, but it could explain how these work together more clearly. A weakness in the text is that it's very wordy but also still very generalized. The AI could do better at being more concise. Prompt 3: The AI answers on this prompt were very thought out and long, pointing out good flaws but making the explanations a little long to read. There are a lot of good points about the flaws in Hari's article that could be a lot more concise. There are also random numbers put at the ends of the sentences in the AI work which don't make sense.	Gp 6
Gp 7	Gp 8

Evaluating Hari 1

1. In groups, discuss any critical questions you had about Hari. Play Devil's advocate. Push on his argument and consider potential flaws, limitations, weaknesses, or gaps. Make sure you provide reasons or evidence. Summarize this below.

Gp 1 Chris Herse, Cole Janowicz, Blake Willing - 1. A potential flaw I noticed was the overgeneralization of Hari's argument addiction is primarily caused by a lack of social connection but I think addiction is a complex	Gp 2 Claire Williams, Tyler Egan-Earle, Sofia Durrani 1. A critical question we have against Hari's argument challenges his ideas on diamorphine. Hari argues that
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condition that influences by many individual circumstances such as a person's environment and mental health. 2. A major flaw for prompt is the AI says he has credibility by quoting renowned authors but anyone can do that. It also says he builds credibility by researching the topic but again anyone can do that as well. 3. Some critical questions I have about Hari include the anecdotes he puts into the text. The emotion he ties into his argument oversimplifies the idea of addiction. In the third paragraph, he recalls how someone was stalked by the War on Drugs which shows how his life was changed, but he never brings in any other perspective. His main point is how certain situations shape drug addicts, but this anecdote does not really point to the main claim, only his personal story. For the most part, he uses too much emotion instead of more evidence that is more related to the subject.	patients in hospitals that are treated with highly addictive drugs like diamorphine, are not likely to become addicted. "So if the old theory of addiction is right -- it's the drugs that cause it; they make your body need them -- then it's obvious what should happen. Loads of people should leave the hospital and try to score smack on the streets to meet their habit. But here's the strange thing: It virtually never happens" (Hari, para 14 & 15). Q: "Can people become addicted to the drugs they use in the hospital?" A: "Yes, people can become addicted to medications used in hospitals, especially those that are opioid-based or have addictive potential. While these drugs are prescribed to manage pain or other medical conditions, some patients may develop a dependence or addiction, particularly if they have a history of substance use disorder."
Gp 3 Kai, Josie, Marco In our group discussion one major flaw is his heavy reliance on social connection as the primary cause of addiction. While Hari downplays chemical dependency, addiction research today shows that both social and biological factors are crucial. The author is really extreme on how it's either chemicals going into addiction or it being environmental factors, instead of it possibly being a combination of both. We also wondered if Hari's personal experiences might weaken his argument since they rely on individual experiences rather than broader evidence. Also his focus on empathy and connection as solutions might seem overly optimistic and doesn't address systemic issues like access to treatment or socioeconomic factors that also play a role in addiction recovery.	Gp 4 Catherine Ishaq, Eli Griffith, Christian Estefanos Hari makes a strong point that addiction is caused by being disconnected from others, but we think he downplays the role of the drugs themselves. He admits that chemicals matter, but doesn't focus on them enough. Addiction often has biological causes too, and focusing mostly on a person's environment might be too simple. Also, not everyone in tough situations becomes addicted, which makes us wonder about other causes like genetics. His ideas are good, but addiction seems more complicated.
Gp 5 Alejandro Cedenio, Lexi Salfiti, Parker Eidlhuber	Gp 6

Johann Hari argues that addiction is driven more by social isolation than by drugs themselves and uses examples like the rat park experiment and how in Vietnam “some 20 percent of U.S. soldiers had become addicted to heroin there” and then overcame that heroin addiction. However, potential flaws in his argument include downplaying genetic and biological factors that affect addiction and assuming that solutions like improving social environments are universally applicable— making it seem like people need to base addiction on environmental factors rather than acknowledging addiction in itself. While his call for compassion is powerful, the practicality of widespread policy changes against these drugs to help addiction is not fully addressed.	
Gp 7	Gp 8

Evaluating Hari 2

1. Now use AI as a “co-intelligence” (Mollick) to extend and develop your evaluation of Hari. For example, you could explore a critical question or critique you developed. Or you could put one of his sources under the microscope (Bruce Alexander), find out how well his argument and the research have aged, look for counterarguments, challenges, etc. You can use the custom chatbots on the wiki to help.

Gp 1 Chris Herse, Cole Janowicz, Blake Willing 1. AI: Johann Hari’s argument, supported by Bruce Alexander’s “Rat Park” experiments, emphasizes the role of social factors in addiction. However, this perspective may oversimplify the complex nature of addiction, which involves genetic, environmental, and psychological factors. While the Rat Park experiments highlight the importance of environment, their findings have faced reproducibility	Gp 2 Sofia, Tyler, Claire Q: what is the percentage of people that get addicted to prescribed medication from hospitals A.I. Answer:
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challenges and may not fully apply to humans. Modern research supports the significance of social factors but also underscores the interplay of multiple influences. Hari's advocacy for social reintegration and love as solutions is compelling but faces practical implementation challenges. A comprehensive approach that includes social, biological, and psychological aspects is necessary for a more accurate understanding and effective treatment of addiction."

2. AI's Answer-Critics of Bruce Alexander's Rat Park experiment argue that its methodology, including a limited sample size and controlled conditions, may not accurately reflect the complexities of human addiction. The study suggests a link between social connection and addiction, but it does not establish causation, leaving room for alternative explanations involving genetic or environmental factors. Additionally, the experiment may oversimplify addiction by focusing primarily on social aspects while neglecting the significance of physical dependence and withdrawal. Lastly, ongoing research in neuroscience and psychology highlights the multifaceted nature of addiction, suggesting that Rat Park's findings should be considered alongside newer insights.

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3. AI's Answer - Hari's reliance on emotional anecdotes, like the story of someone impacted by the War on Drugs, oversimplifies addiction by focusing on personal experiences rather than the broader systemic causes such as poverty, trauma, and mental health. Research shows that social determinants like unemployment and lack of access to healthcare are more significant factors in addiction than individual stories suggest. Although he references Bruce Alexander's "Rat Park" study, Hari doesn't critically engage with recent research that questions its applicability to human addiction. By emphasizing emotion over nuanced evidence, Hari

The percentage of people who become addicted to prescription drugs varies depending on the drug class and individual factors. Here's a general overview:

1. Opioids (prescribed for pain):
 - 8-12% of patients prescribed opioids for chronic pain develop an opioid use disorder (addiction).
 - 21-29% of patients misuse opioids prescribed for chronic pain (using the drug in a manner not intended by the doctor, such as taking more than prescribed or using it recreationally).
2. Benzodiazepines (prescribed for anxiety, panic disorders, or insomnia):
 - 15-20% of long-term users develop dependence or addiction.
3. Stimulants (prescribed for ADHD, such as Adderall and Ritalin):
 - Among adults who misuse these drugs (using them recreationally or without a prescription), up to 25% report developing an addiction. However, addiction rates in patients using them as prescribed for ADHD treatment are much lower.

These numbers provide a general sense of risk, though individual experiences vary based on medical history, dosage, and duration of use.

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risks overlooking the complexity of addiction and its broader societal context.	
Gp 3 Kai, Josie, Marco Using AI to dig deeper into Hari's use of the Rat Park experiment shows some gaps. While the study supports his argument that social isolation leads to addiction, recent research highlights that addiction is more complex, involving both biological and social factors. AI helps us see how addiction science has evolved, showing that Hari's focus on social connection is important but overlooks the role of genetics and brain chemistry. His argument would be stronger if it included these perspectives too.	Gp 4 Catherine Ishaq, Eli Griffith, Christian Estefanos Using Mollick's idea of AI as a "co-intelligence," we can engage with Hari's argument about addiction. Hari's central claim, that addiction is rooted in social disconnection rather than chemical hooks, is compelling but perhaps overly simplified. While he acknowledges that chemicals matter, he downplays their role in favor of social causes. Bruce Alexander's Rat Park experiment certainly challenges the traditional view, but Hari doesn't explore enough how genetics or biological factors contribute to addiction. Addiction is complex, and while the environment plays a role, not everyone in difficult situations becomes addicted, pointing to other causes, like predispositions. Hari's argument has sparked conversation, yet it may benefit from a more balanced exploration of chemical, genetic, and social factors in addiction.
Gp 5 Alejandro ceden Lexi Salfiti Parker Eidlhuber AI's answer was In evaluating Johann Hari's perspective on addiction, it's crucial to scrutinize the work of Bruce Alexander, particularly his Rat Park experiment, which serves as a cornerstone of Hari's argument that social isolation drives addiction more than the chemical properties of drugs. While the experiment provides compelling insights, it is essential to consider its limitations and how the scientific understanding of addiction has evolved since Alexander's work. AI also followed up with: While Johann Hari's argument presents a refreshing perspective on addiction, emphasizing the importance of social connection, it necessitates a balanced view that incorporates genetic, biological, and psychological factors. By critically examining the work of Bruce Alexander and acknowledging the complexities of addiction, we can foster a more comprehensive understanding of this multifaceted issue. Addressing addiction effectively will require not	Gp 6

only compassionate approaches but also a nuanced consideration of the diverse experiences and challenges faced by individuals grappling with substance use disorders. https://theoutline.com/post/2205/this-38-year-old-study-is-still-spreading-bad-ideas-about-addiction	
Gp 7	Gp 8