

Article outline

	Article citation:	Land, Richard. "A Deviance from God's Norm"
Elements of understanding	Topic ¹ :	1. Are homosexual rights groups bigots? 2. Is homosexuality a deviance from god's norm? 3. Is homosexuality equivalent to race or ethnicity?
	Thesis ² :	1. Homosexual rights groups are bigots 2. Homosexuality is a deviance from god's norm 3. Homosexuality is not equivalent to race or ethnicity
	Key terms:	Bigot (author definition): an individual or group who labels a person P who disagrees with them as bigoted and intolerant and attack P for stating P's belief Bigot (other definitions) • One who is strongly partial to one's own group, religion, race, or politics and is intolerant of those who differ [the free dictionary] • A person who is obstinately or intolerantly devoted to his or her own opinions and prejudices; <i>especially</i>: one who regards or treats the members of a group (as a racial or ethnic group) with hatred and intolerance [merriam-webster] Sectarian: adhering or confined to the dogmatic limits of a sect or denomination; partisan; narrow-minded; parochial [the free dictionary] Homosexuality: both homosexual behavior and homosexual desires Sodomy: • Any of various forms of sexual intercourse held to be unnatural or abnormal, especially anal intercourse or bestiality [the free dictionary] • The crime of oral or anal sexual contact or penetration between persons or of sexual intercourse between a person and an animal [findlaw legal dictionary] catholic: . Including or concerning all humankind; universal
Elements of justification	Author's argument:	Argument 1 1. If a person or group G labels a person P who disagrees with G as bigoted and intolerant and attack P for stating P's belief, then G is a bigot 2. Liberals and pro homosexual groups have labeled Rick Santorum as bigoted 3. Liberals and pro homosexual groups have labeled Rick Santorum as intolerant 4. Liberals and pro homosexual groups have attacked Rick Santorum for stating his belief that homosexual behavior like sodomy "undermine the <u>basic tenets of our society and family</u>" Thus liberals and pro-homosexual groups are bigots Argument 2 1. If a behavior is neither normal nor healthy, then that behavior is a deviance from God's norm 2. <u>Homosexual behavior is neither normal nor healthy</u> Thus, homosexual behavior is a deviance from God's norm Argument 3 1. If homosexuality is not an inborn trait, then homosexuality should not be equated with race or ethnicity 2. <u>Homosexuality is not an inborn trait</u> Thus, homosexuality should not be equated with race or ethnicity
	Evidence for argument:	Argument 1

		- Unclear what the attack was, other than Rick Santorum is no longer worthy material for Senate leadership - People have a Constitutionally protected right to speak one's own mind - First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances" Argument 2 - Theologian Wolfhart Pannenberg concluded that if the church ceases to treat homosexuality as a departure from biblical normal that the church would cease to be catholic Argument 3 - Ethnicity and race are part of one's identity - Homosexual behavior is not part of one's identity - There is no evidence that homosexuality is inborn - Homosexuality has many contributing causes [none listed]
Elements of inference	Assumptions:	Argument 1 The first amendment not only prohibits government from limiting free speech, but also limits private individuals Individuals should not have to suffer consequences of stating their beliefs Argument 2 A theologian, talking about the Bible, is not stating a sectarian view but a view that is catholic, i.e., one that every person, whether Christian or not, agrees to
	Implications:	Argument 1 Since Richard Land has labeled liberals as bigoted, intolerant, and attacked them for their beliefs, then Richard Land is a bigot
Summary	Write out topic, thesis and main reason(s) for thesis in paragraph form	Land is arguing for three theses: liberals and pro-homosexual groups are bigots, homosexuality is a deviance from God's norm, and homosexuality is not equivalent to ethnicity or race. The main reasons for each are as follows: by attacking Rick Santorum's views, liberal and pro-homosexual groups fit the definition of a bigot, a theologian has stated that everyone believes that the Bible says homosexuality is neither normal nor healthy, and while ethnicity and race are a matter of one's identity, homosexuality is a matter of one's behavior.
Elements of evaluation	Problem with or criticism of author's reason(s):	Argument 1: The definition of bigot is so broad that if you disagree with anyone about anything, you are a bigot and by his own logic, Richard Land and Rick Santorum are in fact bigots. Argument 2: - The views of a theologian talking about Biblical teaching is an example of sectarianism, not a counter example - Since there exist liberals and pro-homosexual groups, then the views of the theologian are not in fact catholic, i.e., universal amongst humanity - The APA believes that "Both heterosexual and homosexual behavior are normal aspects of human sexuality" - The meaning of term 'healthy' is ambiguous and the APA does not view homosexuality as a psychopathology Argument 3 - The argument commits an equivocation. The argument should either compare ethnic behavior or race behavior with homosexual behavior, or ethnicity and race

		with homosexuality as sexual orientation separate from the behavior • The APA believes that sexual orientation, including homosexuality, “refers to a person’s sense of identity” despite Land’s claims to the contrary and equivocating between homosexuality as behavior and homosexuality as sexual orientation.
	Possible author response:	

¹topic is the question that the author is attempting to answer.
²thesis is the answer that the author is providing to the question.