

# Bukowski essay



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Written for the lower class Written in California in 1968 for a weekly column in the Open City newspaper, Charles Bukowski's " Non Horseshit Horse Advice" was intended to give advice to people going to horse races.

Bukowski begins by describing the people you may or may not see at the Hollywood Park horse races. In the next paragraph he starts to explain how the track makes money off of the people betting on the horses, and how it is rigged. Then he says that he knows the way to win, but he won't tell the readers because then everyone would do it. Next he describes when not to bet on horses, such as when all you have is the rent money you owe for that month. He then finally starts to give some advice. First he says to watch your under-lay shots, because they are often mistakes. Then he says to lay off the closers.

This is because closers are audience favorites, but most likely will not win. He then says that if you must bet on a closer to do it for short races, because the crowd does not believe he has time to " get up". Then he says watch your tote board, and only to bet when you can lose.

This goes back to what he said about only rent when your rent money is not on the line. Finally he says that any profit loss venture is not based upon the number of winners you have but on the number of winners at that price. These words of advice all do a great job of summing up one of his major points, which is that the game is all rigged. By not capitalizing anything in the article he has written, Bukowski tries to make his article easier to read by the less educated or lower class audience he is trying to attract. The higher

class audiences would already have had a pretty good knowledge of horse racing.

Horse races at the time were a staple recreational activity for the wealthy, and because of that his advice would be useless to them because they already know about them. Bukowski targets the lower class audience, because they are more likely to not have any knowledge of horse racing prior to reading his article. The lower class people of that time were not usually well educated, because they often had to start working at a very young age. This made many lower class people have trouble reading even the simplest of things. By using lower case letters the readers don't have to think as much about the article. This makes them more likely to read it because they can read it for fun without having to ask for help understanding it. An example of this would be " the 3 or 4 others will break even. "

(Bukowski)Because this is the beginning of a sentence, the T in the would normally be capitalized.

Another thing Bukowski does to attract and relate to his lower class audience is his use of lower class terms and phrases. By saying " I mean without ending up sleeping on a park bench or missing 3 or 4 meals. "(Bukowski) he is making it seem as though he knows what it's like to not have money to spare. He also says " it would take one of these Caltech cats to tell me and I don't know any catch cats.

"(Bukowski) Caltech was a popular school that many smart people went to at that time. By saying that he doesn't know any Caltech cats, he is trying to make is sound as though he and the people he associates with are not well

educated like his audience. Also by saying " the main thing, get the rent down first. (Bukowski) With this he is making it seem as though like his lower class audience that his rent money is sometimes hard to come by and should be top priority. Bukowski also uses the term rent instead of mortgage or house note, because the lower class audience would normally have rent because mortgages are more expensive. This is yet another way that he tries to relate to them, and make it seem as though he is one of them. Bukowski tries to relate to his audience, because it will give him more credibility.

An audience is more likely to believe Bukowski, if he sounds as though he is one of them. For example, Amy Jones and Jennifer Greer tested male and female subjects on who they liked to hear a story from. When a female subject was reading the story Jones states " overall, all male participants were less interested in the story than were female participants. " (Jones, and Greer 4) This is because the females feel as though they are hearing a story from one of their own. They are more interested in the story because they feel the female relates to them better.

The males were less interested, because the story was coming from someone different to them. Although Bukowski is a wealthy higher class author, he can make the audience believe he is one of them by sounding like his is. By not capitalizing anything in his article and using lower class language, Bukowski attracts a lower class audience.

They are more likely to believe what he is writing, and continue to read his articles in the Open City newspaper. Works Cited Bukowski, Charles. " Non-Horse shit horse advice. " Open City [ California ] 1968, n. pag. Print.

Jones, Amy, and Jennifer Greer. "You Don't Look Like an Athlete: The Effects of." 34. 4 (2011): 4. Print.