

John Wilson

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English 101 G

15 October 2003

Toulmin System: Homeless not Hopeless

Enthymeme: Randolph Larder Kennedy represents a valuable challenge to social stereotypes because he proved that homelessness is not always the result of profligate living or laziness.

Claim: Randolph Larder Kennedy represents a valuable challenge to social stereotypes

Stated Reason: because he proved that homelessness is not always the result of profligate living or laziness

Warrant: any person who teaches us the weakness of social stereotypes is valuable

Backing:

- *Discuss various social stereotypes that infect culture: rich are elitist and selfish, poor are lazy, hillbillies are ignorant, people from the projects are violent and ignorant
- *Discuss the dangers such stereotypes can have on the success of society

Grounds:

- *Describe Mr. Kennedy's appearance and demeanor
- *Present his family history (wealthy family, Christian, highly educated)
- *Discuss and analyze Mr. Kennedy's own education (college degree)
- *Discuss the accident that left Mr. Kennedy physically impaired and mentally challenged
- *Describe Mr. Kennedy's current attempts at rehabilitation and job training
- *Discuss his role as encourager to others at Knox Area Rescue Ministries
- *Offer full description of his "philosophy"
- *Discuss his convictions regarding "not a hand-out but a hand-up"
- *End with honest explanation of my new view of the homeless

Opposition/Rebuttal:

- *Refute the preconception that all homeless people are addicts
- *Refute the preconception that homeless people do not want to work
- *Refute the idea that homeless people all come from an unstable family background
- *Refute the belief that homeless people are uneducated
- *Refute the stereotype of homeless people as inarticulate, dirty, and dangerous

Qualifiers:

- *some, at times, probably, perhaps