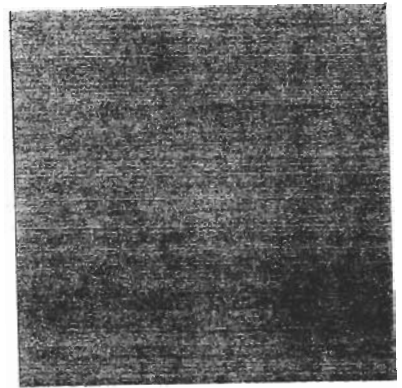


Critique-Heather Green



In the article "Databases and Security vs. Privacy", author Heather Green creates a strong and imposing argument against the concept of a National I.D. card. Ms. Green not only has a clear and concise argument, but it is completely appropriate for her audience. Not only does she give various facts and examples for each of her main points, but she also gives the opposing view points and refutes the opposing arguments.

*good!*

This article was first published in *Business Week* during the year of 2002. Hence, her audience would be any citizens who would be involved with or interested in various types of business affairs. The way Ms. Green's essay has been written is very reflective of this, as it touches on various subjects which people who are involved with business would relate to. Databases are largely associated with businesses, so when the author states "In the corporate world, the push to gather, store, and trade information about families, purchases...and financial standing has steadily increased" (525), it demonstrates the appeal that this essay would have to any readers of *Business Week*. Most middle-class citizens do not usually deal with the "corporate world" or any major databases. Although there would more than likely be readers who are not associated with businesses, the author has made it obvious who her intended audience is to be.

Even though this article has been targeted at the readers of *Business Weekly*, the language has not become so complicated that an average citizen could not comprehend the argument. The language used is very formal and educated, but there are very few

terms which require a definition. The only instance when a term was used which an average reader would not be able to understand the argument is when Ms. Green wrote "People concerned about balancing privacy and security need to focus on this point and not get caught up in the red herring debate around the ID cards themselves" (525). Many readers may not have known or understood what the term "red herring" referred to, but the author took the time to give the definition, allowing the reader to clearly understand her argument. Not only does this make her argument clearer, but the use of that term may also strengthen her argument in showing her education and giving the reader a higher standard of this author and her argument.

The examples provided by Ms. Green are not only relevant, but they seem to make a very strong point in favor of her argument against a National ID card. The most settling example was most likely when the author stated that "the Bush Administration stated publicly last month that it had no intention of pushing for cards" (525). She went on to say that much of the same information could be obtained "by increasing the collection and sharing of data among federal and state agencies, banks, transportation authorities, and credit-card companies" (525). Clearly, there is already a high potential for the use of ID cards, and that all the information has already been attained and needs only to be pooled into one large database. The author believes Americans are not urgently concerned with privacy and that they believe that can protect it with a simple phone call. Her example of these databases clearly indicate that all the information required for an ID card has already been collected, and that they could be implicated without public support.

Another factor which makes Heather Green's article even more effective is her ability to discuss an opposing viewpoint and then rebuke it without bias. One of the main arguments for the ID cards is that there is a much higher need for a sense of security. Ms. Green states that "After September 11, it's only natural that the nation would search for ways to increase its security" (526). Instead of merely rejecting or attacking that argument, she simply states "law enforcement has overstepped the boundaries of acceptable surveillance of Americans in the past" (526). Ms. Green not only doesn't reject the opposing argument, she agrees, but gently reminds the reader that the issue has arisen in the past, but did not end happily. By doing so, the reader feels gratified, but also is able to see the author's side of the argument.

Heather Green is a very talented author and writes extraordinary arguments, and this article was no exception. More than likely, there are several readers of *Business Weekly* who believe a National ID card would be a good solution. However, after reading this brilliantly written article, their opinions may change. After reading an argument when the author give a clear argument for the appropriate audience, giving various examples and offering both viewpoints, many readers would rally behind the author and her argument.