

News Quiz (Opinion): Manu Koenig: The rail trail is not dead or seriously threatened; we just have to be careful how we manage our scarce resources



Read through this article and answer the questions below.

District 1 Santa Cruz County Supervisor Manu Koenig responds to those critical of his March 26 board of supervisors vote on the rail trail. He writes that the supervisors just want more time to get information on the best way to move forward and that state grants are not threatened. Elected officials, he insists, must be wary of costs and managing scarce resources.

What is an opinion article?

Opinion articles are written by individuals who want to share what they think is important, in their opinion. It's edited like a regular news story but instead of being impartial it takes a stance on a specific issue and makes an argument for or against the subject of the article.

Question 1: Manu begins by telling the reader that he was talking to another Santa Cruz dad about the rail trail. Why do you think he is sharing that information and how does it support his argument? Do you think it strengthens or weakens his argument? Explain your answer.

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Question 2: When Manu writes about Mitch Weiss, what is the goal of using words like, "calmly explained," when referring to the meeting they had on April 4th?

Question 3: Throughout the article, Manu asks a question and then answers his own question. Why does he do this?

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Question 4: When Manu suggests the reader to look at the RTC staff report, is he appealing to logos (logic), ethos (authority), or pathos (emotion)? Why would he do this to strengthen his argument?

Question 5: *What are your overall impressions of Manu's article? How does it make you feel and what things stood out to you about the argument he's making?*