

Suggested Reading period: 15 minutes

Suggested writing time: 45 minutes

Directions: Question 1 is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise.

In your response you should do the following:

- Respond to the prompt with a historically defensive thesis or claim that establishes a line of reasoning.
- Describe a broader historical context relevant to the prompt.
- Support an argument in response to the prompt using at least **four** documents.
- Use additional, specific historical evidence (beyond that found in the documents) relevant to an argument in the prompt.
- For at least **two** documents, explain how or why the document's point of view, purpose, historical situation, and/or audience is relevant to an argument.
- Demonstrate a complex understanding of a historical development related to the prompt through sophisticated argumentation and/or effective use of evidence.

1. Evaluate the extent to which 100 unspecified men are likely to beat 1 gorilla in a fight.

Document 1

Source: Communications Director at Zoo Miami Ron Magill, April 15, 2025.

“Well of course, there’s a lot of things that we gotta take into consideration here. First of all, it’s 100- let’s say it’s 100 men in their twenties or thirties. So 100 healthy men. They’ve gotta be committed, because if they go in, they’ve gotta go in all at once. [...] a couple of men go in at a time, a gorilla is going to win that. But if they go in all at once, there really is no way a gorilla’s gonna win that. A gorilla’s a very powerful animal, but keep in mind this is a gentle giant. The only way a gorilla’s going to get aggressive is to protect his family. These are vegetarians, they’re herbivores, they don’t eat meat, they don’t kill to feed- they just fight to defend their families. But if you’ve got 100 men coming at him, the reality is the gorilla would have no chance. He’d probably create some tremendous collateral damage. You might lose a few of those men. It’d be a kamikaze mission for the first ones to get to the gorilla. But at the end of the day, if everybody remains committed and united, they wrap themselves around the gorilla like a big straightjacket, so the gorilla can’t properly breathe or extend its limbs... it’s no question to me.”

Document 2

Source: Primatologist Michelle Rodrigues, interview with Rolling Stone, April 29, 2025.

“As strong as gorillas are, and as much damage as their canines can do, it’s not a fair fight, and a sensible gorilla would try to flee...

... Both gorillas and humans are social animals, and safety in numbers is an important point in their decision-making to engage in fights... Gorillas are group-living animals, and when male gorillas do not have a group of females to lead or co-lead, they are instead found in bachelor groups with other males. It’s rarer to find one on their own, and the social context influences the degree to which they would be

willing to fight. The large size, muscle mass, and sharp canines that make silverback gorillas formidable opponents arose from male-male competition, and males are most likely to fight their hardest when they are defending a group. However, gorillas are not typically aggressive and pick their battles,

Document 3

Source: "Why do you look so concerned?" Huge gorilla cuddles up to a worried-looking national park ranger in amazing photo", article by DailyMail



James Gifford, 41, caught the touching moment zoo keeper André Bauma was hugged by gorilla.

Document 4

Source: Primatologist and Professor at Scotland's University Cat Hobaiter, interview with Rolling Stone, April 29, 2025

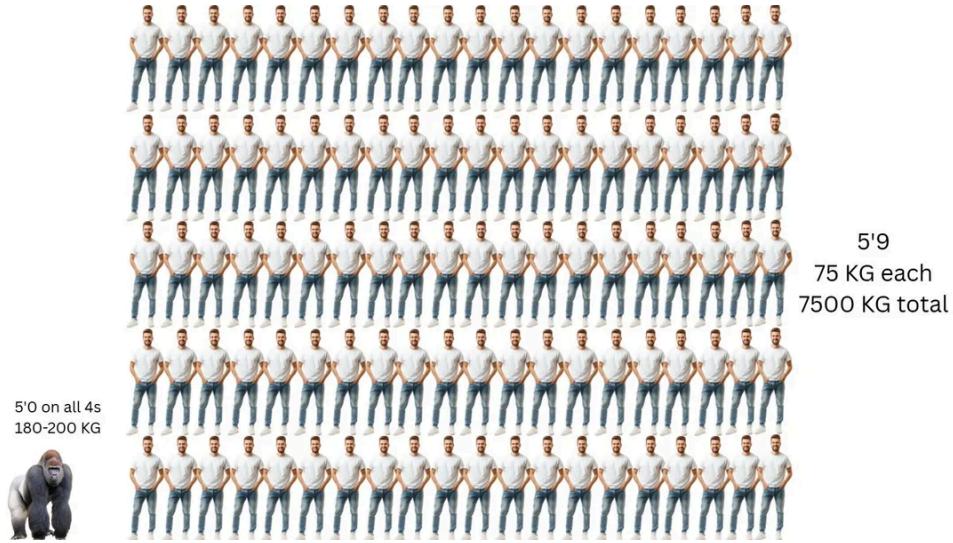
"Most folks focus first on size... Gorillas are big — a large silverback can be about 440 pounds — but not dramatically so compared to 100 men. Much more important is how powerful they are. All apes have two types of muscle fibers: slow twitch and fast twitch. Fast twitch give you explosive power. Human muscles are about half and half, other apes all have more fast twitch than slow, but gorilla muscles are an incredible 85-plus-percent fast-twitch fibers — the most of any ape. So, pound for pound of muscle mass, they are much much much more powerful than we are..."

... Honestly, 100 guys wouldn't stand a chance... They're going to be swatting at him like out-of-breath children, and a single one of his punches would floor them. And if the next 92 guys don't realize they don't stand a chance after he has knocked the first eight out without breaking a sweat, I've got to assume we're not talking about folks who are going to outsmart him."

Document 5

Source: User Interloper_1, Reddit post on r/powerscales

“1 gorilla vs 100 men if it wasn’t an AI image or “simulation” that made the gorilla bigger than the Hulk”



Document 6

Source: Human v Gorilla, See Who Wins, animalmatchup.com

Matchup Stats

	Human	Gorilla
Size	Average height of 5 feet 7 inches (170 cm)	Up to 6 feet (1.8 meters)
Weight	Average weight of 154 pounds (70 kg)	Up to 400 pounds (181 kilograms)
Speed	27.8 mph (44.7 km/h)	Speed: 20 mph (32.19 km/hr)
Key Strength	Intelligence and ability to strategize	Powerful arms and large size
Biggest Weakness	Lack of physical strength compared to some animals	Vulnerable to attacks on head and neck

Document 7

Source: Science Communicator Hank Green, TikTok Video, May 2nd, 2025.

“It depends on so many different things. It’s assumed that they’re all like healthy strong men and a healthy strong gorilla. So like, equal footing there. Like it’s not like a bunch of “me’s” against a gorilla. So first of all, is it one at a time? Cause if it’s one at a time, the gorilla wins every time. If it’s a swarm of humans, all hundred of them, that’s a lot of people. They could probably hold the gorilla down if they work together. Can they work together though? Have you seen people? It can be hard to get us to work together. Have they pre-trained to fight the gorilla? Do they have some time to work out their tactics? Absolutely, if there’s tactics time, humans every time.

Evaluate the extent to which 100 unspecified men are likely to beat 1 gorilla in a fight.

Why the Gorilla Would Totally Win (Sorry guys 😂)

Okay, let’s be real for a second. There’s this crazy debate going around: could 100 random men beat ONE gorilla in a fight? Like, imagine your P.E. class times ten versus King Kong’s little cousin. Sounds like the guys might win, right? No chat. I’m here to tell you that the gorilla would absolutely destroy them and I’ve got the receipts.

First of all, let’s talk muscles. According to Document 4, gorillas are the literal definition of “built different.” They have more fast-twitch muscles than us, which means they have insane explosive power. Like, one punch from a silverback could probably launch someone into next week. The men might be taller on average, but height doesn’t matter when the gorilla’s arm is the size of your whole body and swings harder than your mood on a Monday.

Now, Document 2 says gorillas aren’t even that aggressive. They’re chill, plant-eating gym bros who only fight if they have to. But if they feel threatened? Oh, it’s game over. These dudes wouldn’t be walking into a fight—they’d be walking into a hurricane with fists. And unless those 100 men have matching t-shirts, a battle plan, and some serious team-building energy, it’s not gonna work. Have you ever tried to get 100 people to agree on anything? Yeah, exactly.

Even science TikTok legend Hank Green (Document 7) said it: unless the men have tactics, training, and don’t act like headless chickens, the gorilla wins. Spoiler alert: random men off the street probably don’t have a group PowerPoint presentation ready on “How to Defeat a Gorilla.”

Also, Document 3 literally shows a gorilla hugging a park ranger like he’s his emotional support human. That’s cute and all, but it’s also terrifying. Imagine that hug turning into a wrestling move. That gorilla has grip. Meanwhile, Chad from Accounting is crying in the corner

because he forgot his protein shake.

And let's not forget the stats in Document 6. Humans are smart, sure, but gorillas are strong, fast, and know how to use their strength. If the fight is physical, brains won't help much when you're flying through the air like a frisbee.

So yeah. Could 100 random guys beat one gorilla? Only if the gorilla is napping and the guys have a group chat, snacks, a game plan, and maybe some emotional support llamas. Otherwise, that gorilla's walking out like it just won The Bachelor.

In conclusion, the gorilla's got the power, the muscles, and the drama. And the guys? They've got chaos. This isn't a superhero movie. This is Planet of the Apes, and the gorilla is not playing.