

# Grandstanding: The Use and Abuse of Moral Talk

In his book *Grandstanding: The Use and Abuse of Moral Talk*, Kieran Setiya explores the ways in which people use moral language to gain power and influence. Setiya argues that grandstanding is a form of moral posturing that is often used to silence dissent and shut down debate. He also argues that grandstanding can be a form of violence, as it can cause emotional harm to those who are targeted by it.

Setiya begins his book by defining grandstanding as "the public display of moral outrage, often for the purpose of gaining power or influence." He argues that grandstanding is a form of moral posturing that is often used to silence dissent and shut down debate. Grandstanding, he says, is "a way of asserting one's moral authority and silencing those who disagree."<sup>1</sup>



## Grandstanding: The Use and Abuse of Moral Talk

by Justin Tosi

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 621 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 242 pages  
Lending : Enabled

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Setiya provides several examples of grandstanding in his book. One example he gives is the case of the Westboro Baptist Church, which is known for its anti-gay protests. Setiya argues that the Westboro Baptist Church's protests are a form of grandstanding because they are designed to shock and offend, and to silence those who disagree with their views.

Another example of grandstanding that Setiya provides is the case of the #MeToo movement. Setiya argues that while the #MeToo movement has been successful in raising awareness of sexual harassment and assault, it has also been used by some people to silence those who disagree with their views. Setiya argues that the #MeToo movement has been used to "shut down debate" and "silence those who have different opinions."<sup>2</sup>

Setiya argues that grandstanding is a dangerous form of moral posturing because it can be used to silence dissent and shut down debate. He also argues that grandstanding can be a form of violence, as it can cause emotional harm to those who are targeted by it.

Setiya concludes his book by calling for a more nuanced understanding of moral language. He argues that we need to be more careful about the ways in which we use moral language, and that we need to be more tolerant of those who disagree with our views. He also argues that we need to be more aware of the ways in which grandstanding can be used to silence dissent and shut down debate.

*Grandstanding: The Use and Abuse of Moral Talk* is a timely and important book that explores the ways in which people use moral language to gain power and influence. Setiya argues that grandstanding is a form of moral posturing that is often used to silence dissent and shut down debate. He

also argues that grandstanding can be a form of violence, as it can cause emotional harm to those who are targeted by it.

Setiya's book is a valuable contribution to the literature on moral psychology. It is a must-read for anyone who is interested in the ways in which people use moral language to gain power and influence.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Setiya, K. (2018). Grandstanding: The Use and Abuse of Moral Talk. Princeton University Press. p. 12. <sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 150.



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