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Audience Analysis:

The audience who opposes my point of view is a group of people who mainly believe that safety is a priority for individuals who travel. They are commonly people who have the power to regulate secure rules for travelers and value their life and other people's life.

Also, the audience may be the people who agree of having the new scanners and being inspected by them at airports.

People's Reactions Regarding Full-Body Scanners at Airports

I am an international student who needs to travel up to four times a year. The long queues at the airport seem to be really depressing to me, especially when I pass by the checking point. After I heard about the new rule of being inspected by a scanner that shows a full-body image, I was scared of losing my values of privacy and modesty. Now I think twice before deciding to travel to back home. It would sound weird when the person thinks about how many times his or her "naked" image is going to be exposed to people that they do not even know or trust. It seems that it is a complicated issue that needs more thinking and that people are confused about. Every new invention has people who would agree with its purpose and others who believe that this invention would violate their personal rights. While some people think having full-body scanners is a matter of maintaining traveler's safety, I'm one of the others who strongly believe that their values and beliefs are the most important priority that the government should care about if they want to apply those full-body scanners. Also health problems due to the use of those new scanners are a big concern to those opponents.

People who agree with airports having full-body scanners and support this issue claim mainly that airports should require more safety for travelers. According to the *UK public are ‘happy to use airport scanners’* article, ninety percent of surveyed people were happy to have these new scanners and to be inspected by them. Such people agree with the new scanners because they believe that safety is something important more than anything. Those scanners help in providing a better image of the full-body. After the incidence of the last Christmas Day in January, when a Nigerian man was hiding explosives in his underwear, airports securities became stricter in order to guarantee better safety for travelers (Zakaria A. 14). It is logical and understandable how governments want to protect everyone, and all people appreciate all the hard work and the new rules they put for the sake of travelers safety. In USA, airports security was raised and checking points increased inspection for those who seem suspicious or from nationalities included within the fourteen countries designated by the US State Department (Zakria A. 14). Also, president Obama said, "The US will do more than strengthen defences. We will use every element of our national power to disrupt, dismantle and defeat the extremists who threaten us" after the Christmas attempt. Safety and security is the main and seems to be the only point of agreement regarding the issue of having full-body scanners at airports.

On the other hand, people who disagree with the issue of having full-body scanners at airports are the ones who are strongly believe in their values of privacy and modesty, either for religious reasons or because this is what they used to in their cultures. Muslims show big worries when it comes to their body image being exposed to strangers, because “Modesty is a basic principal of the Islamic faith” and full-body scanners is

considered as a violation to that principle (American Muslim groups protest use of unIslamic full body scanners at airports). Similarly to Muslims, some Jewish groups objected on the idea of full-body scanning. They said that those imaging scanners are “offensive, demeaning” and not accepted on Judaism or other faiths that value modesty (Sacirbey 17, 1pgs). Religious groups and people who have always believed in certain values disagree with the full-body scanning because it penetrates those beliefs and values. Also, people are worried about their health getting affected by the new scanners. Their concern is whether the scanning process may increase the possibility of getting cancers or not.

My point of view regarding this issue stands in the gray area between points of agreements and disagreements, but more closely to the last mentioned. As a Muslim, I believe in my values and I highly respect our religious principles, although –as an individual of the society- I agree with the point of providing more safety to travelers. The problem is that Muslims have slightly differences in the principle of modesty. For example, Jewish modesty allow men to be exposed and inspected by men, and women by women, however, Muslims can not be exposed to anyone else than their spouses or physicians (Gray). I disagree with the new scanners technique because I believe that they penetrate laws of privacy. According to The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), their main concern is the privacy of certain groups of people including “disabled and elderly people and of pre-operative transsexuals, whose original sex could be exposed by the scanners” (Woolf 9). I also disagree with the new scanners because sometimes the selection of some people than others shows discrimination at airports for certain races or religions. As what Tabassum Zakaria mentioned in her article, travelers

from fourteen countries are expected to be “pre-flight screening”, and those are mostly Muslim countries. This may show discrimination towards Muslims specifically. In addition, I am worried just like other people who show concerns about the health risk due to the use of the new full-body scanners. The scanners vary when it comes to the type of X-rays they use. Some of them are considered fatal more than the others. The problem is that when a large group of people gets exposed to a small dose of X-rays that would increase the risk of cancers and fatal cancers in some conditions. According to David J. Brenner, a professor of radiation biophysics at Columbia and director of the university's Center for Radiological Research, “if millions or tens of millions of passengers a year were scanned with the backscatter X-ray, he said, the risk would be higher” (Clark, Wald 4). That means for me as a person who has to travel frequently within a year, I'm in higher risk of getting cancers or health issues because I get exposed to larger amount of X-rays every time I wait in the queue to get inspected.

I believe that safety is something important for every country, but I care as well about my values and beliefs that I can't give up suddenly. It may be right or wrong but this is what I think about being inspected by scanners that show and expose every unseen thing to strangers. Also, my health is an important thing that I seriously care about and would do anything to protect it from hazards. I also believe that If the government showed care about people's fright of the health harmful effect and did more researching about health risks due to the usage of the new scanners, and provided privacy to people while applying the new rules, people would be convinced and would be more flexible with the new situation, and the government's goal of keeping people safe will be reached without facing problems in checking points at airports. I would feel more comfortable if

the government guaranteed for me the rights of maintaining a good health and not losing my values.

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