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*Topic sentence connects to previous paragraph, uses language from research question and asserts an opinion as though it is fact.*

A third reason behind the support of football by the government was the simple concept of popularity. With the sport’s increasing attractiveness, it would seem logical for politicians to associate themselves with it, and this hypothesis seems supported by the evidence, beginning in 1904 when the municipality of San Jose donated 200 colones (the Costa Rican currency) to football clubs to organize games.[[1]](#footnote-1) This was followed by encouraging the use of ‘La Sabana’ for playing games, and also politicians such as Cleto Gonzalez Viquez (President from 1906-10) and Ricardo Jimenez Oreamuno (president from 1910-14) attending football matches and giving prizes (including medals) to the participating teams[[2]](#footnote-2), in what may have been a merely philanthropic gesture, but could be seen as thinly veiled political propaganda. Historian Chester Urbina Gaitan, the leading expert on the history of sport in Costa Rica, leans toward this latter belief, claiming that, “Politicians of that time saw in football a means of carrying hatred and divisions onto the field of play—principally in times of electoral campaigns--, taking advantage of sporting encounters as a medium of political propaganda.”[[3]](#footnote-3) While this may sound rather extreme—it is hard to believe that a mere sport could have such an effect—it seems clear that politicians “saw in the sport an important contribution to the forming of good citizens,”[[4]](#footnote-4) and as such one can assume an ability to move the masses; and they wanted to be able to control this to improve their own image. Thus, Urbina’s belief would seem to be supported at least in part by the psychology of politicians of the time, who liked to project a friendly and people-oriented view of themselves—for example, Ricardo Jimenez was well-known for his approachability, on occasion being seen at fairs with his daughter.[[5]](#footnote-5) It is clear that the lack of a healthy and active lifestyle was a concern at the time, as the press criticized the situation with articles containing messages such as “We have noticed in our youth a certain apathy, a determined abandoning of the life of sport,”[[6]](#footnote-6) where can be seen perfectly the way in which the press at least pushed for an alternative sport that would encourage a healthy and active lifestyle among the younger citizens. Popularity then, in its many forms, must be seen as being at least partly responsible for the government’s support of football.

*Writer often evaluates, analyzes, theorizes, suggests and judges, but acknowledges the arbitrary nature of historical interpretation*

*Concluding sentence echoes the topic sentence, using language from the RQ. It may hint at the next paragraph as well.*

*Sentences after the topic sentence are often a combination of the essayist’s own words and evidence, a kind of dance back and forth between example and analysis. Quotations are expertly integrated.*

*Acknowledgement of the role of other historians as interpreters of evidence as well as a willingness to engage in the debate and either agree or disagree with the “experts”*

*Evidence is a mixture of summary and quotations both of which are properly acknowledged by footnotes.*

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)