

My research is going to be on horse racing, specifically flat racing. Flat racing is a distance form of race comprised of long races called “routes” and short races called “sprints”. Horses run an oval track, tracks varying between dirt and turf, and compete worldwide in ranked competitions. Flat racing across the globe has produced dozens of athletic champions with unique stories behind them.

Unlike jump racing, horses begin their careers younger, usually at two or three years old. Thoroughbreds, the most common breed, are at their most athletic at their time. Flat racing horses have short careers, usually spanning only a few short years due to how strenuous the sport can be. In retirement, they are often bred or take transitions into new athletic careers, though some suffer much more dire fates. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the career, it can be dangerous for horses. Many other countries have stricter laws than the United States regarding treatment of animals and their jockeys. The sport itself needs more work in regulation, especially in the United States, which is why funding of aftercare organizations is crucial to maintain ethical standards for horseracing.