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Essay #1: Source-Based Essay on Rhetorical Situation related to Immigrants

For many years the U.S. society has blamed and ignored the immigrants for many of their social flaws, for example they have been blamed for the loss of jobs. Over the past few years the topic of immigrants has arisen into the media spotlight, however this has caused a growth in discrimination against immigrant families. The following articles range from ICE documentation to DACA, and the fate of the immigrant families that are represented to have been oppressed in these articles. Several articles talk about the families aspirations that were in their minds on the day they decided to come to the U.S, however the articles also give insight into the dishonesty that the media had projected into the world. They speak of their astonishment of the inequalities and the lack of empathy found in American soil, as well as the various laws that affect the immigrants' lives. Each source discussed will highlight the dishonesty that the media has fed today's people, each source will be seen and put in view from a rhetorical point of view.

In a news article posted on the journalistic website named, “the conversation” a writer named Frans J. Schryer came to shine light on the matter of immigrants. He conducted a research operation where he found immigrants willing to share their experience in America, involving fear, oppression, and watching their dreams fall apart because of deportation. Schryer also wrote about the effects Trump's team along with their decisions and efforts to end the future of migrants in this country had on the economy stating Trump was, “against immigration, yet he wants the U.S. to have a prosperous economy and to have a competitive advantage in the global economy.” Through this article, Schryer was trying to draw the attention from the oblivious and naive Americans, to show them how immigrants have suffered, and put them in a mental state where they have to imagine themselves in the position of an immigrant. Schryer addresses the naive and oblivious Americans, with mature language, and a formal tone. For example in the article he says, “Many Americans who may support Trump in his efforts to build a wall may not know about the conflicted feelings many of these migrant workers experience,” Schryer did not refer to the Americans a vile way, although he did not agree with them, he still chose to speak about these Americans in a respectful manner. He called them what they are, Americans, not calling them racists or other vile terms as many informal individuals would do today. Using the formal tone throughout his article showed the naïve and oblivious Americans that he is someone with sufficient education to be respectful to all individuals equally**.** Schryer uses the word, “imagine” a total of 3 times, in the first section, he states “Imagine, for example, if you had no other choice but to move to a neighboring country as the only way to make a decent living, and then being cut off from your family even though they live nearby.” Through the mere use of “imagine” his purpose of this article became to make these naive minds within the Americans, as mentioned before, create an idea in their head of a life they are not equipped to live in, make them have compassion for immigrants who come to a new place not prepared to suffer the oppression they are exposed to. Schryer takes a stance on the immigrant side, supporting immigrants and trying to bring attention to the problem within our society. This article matters because it is a stepping stone into changing the mindset of all naïve and oblivious Americans.

Recently writers have taken to magazine organizations to spread awareness on immigration as well, seeing as they are trying to reach out to much younger people, with shocking images. An example of a magazine article that has spread awareness is under the magazine website named, “vox,” where Nicole Narea speaks on Trump and what he has done over the years to the fate of immigrants. Narea speaks on how Trump has lived up to what he promised in his 2016 election campaign, on deporting many immigrants, as well as enforcing stricter and more evident laws against them, stating in the article, “The agenda he outlined has become America’s reality.” Nareas purpose was to be more informal than influential, she took on a mature language, spacing the details she collectively had and equally placing them throughout the article. Narea used a formal tone to make herself seem evidently educated in the topic, an example of such tone is when she was speaking on an event that occurred in 2016, related to political aspects, saying “Trump’s 2016 speech in Arizona was an example of how immigration restrictionists who once occupied the political fringe — such as White House senior adviser Stephen Miller and former US Attorney General Jeff Sessions — have crystallized anti-immigrant rhetoric into policy.” When really analyzing this tone, the reader can see that Narea is in fact educated, she knows much on the topic, and for her to know this much on it, it could mean that whatever is occurring must be greater then what we imagine. Narea sharing this type of information with the reader also almost makes a reader feel as if they are involved in politics as well, and in all honesty the reader can in fact be involved in politics, when they vote. Saying this the possible purpose for this magazine was not just to inform but also to influence others to get more involved in politics, no matter what it takes. Throughout the magazine article Narea does not present her stance on the topic, instead she merely gives facts on what Trump's organization has been able to succeed in, for example she repeatedly says, “Trump has.” When saying this it is evident that she is well informed on what Trump has been able to accomplish. Narea might do this to be informational, to merely let the readers know what is occurring, leaving the opinions and viewpoints of her audience, being Americans, up to their own decision and interpretations, and from there decide on their own whether to be involved in politics, being involved such as voting. It can be said that this source matters because of this, because it influences others to get involved in politics.

Another way other than newspapers and magazines that awareness is made is through social media, such as YouTube. Today you see many young adults invested in shows, so why not create a documentary on immigrants that these young adults may come upon on one day. In a documentary published on YouTube named, “The Wall - A Nation Divided, “ uploaded on the 29th of June, 2018 by CBS news, as stated in the description, a “correspondent worker” by the name of “Mireya Villarreal traveled to the Tohono O'odham reservation, which straddles 75 miles of the U.S.-Mexico border,” an area known as a passageway for immigrants to the United States. Villarreal addresses how weak the border is but how strong the border patrol is, found in minute 2:29 where she is surprised by the border being “a bunch of sticks” as said by her. She addresses the many things that could come through on that passageway mentioning “drug traffickers, coyotes and migrants looking to enter the U.S.” as mentioned in the description of the upload as well as said in her own words during the documentary. Villarreal decided to take on this documentary not only because it was her job but also because it was an interesting topic, you can infer this through her optimistic tone throughout the whole documentary. One example of this tone, is in minute 0:45, she witnesses someone running across that deserted area between the border of the United States and Mexico, and with an insightful manner, using informal language and pronunciation she goes “l-l-look tur-tur--turn around look, look.” Merely in the first minute you can see she is dedicated to what she will discover during her trip. Through this documentary Villarreal is not only bringing the reality of an immigrant looking for a better future to young adults, but instead, to everyone. Social media, such as YouTube, brings individuals of all ages to come together to be entertained, YouTube does not only work to be entertaining but also to be Informal with documentaries such as this one. YouTube is also such a big platform where many can become informed on certain issues, and in this case, the audience could be of many ages becoming informed of immigrants and their struggles. In the United States Americans, being our target audience, are so driven by what they see online so this style may appeal to them because they can come along for the ride that Villarreal experienced, see it for themselves that way they can’t oppose because they have evidence placed right in front of them. In the case of this documentary, it was produced to inform Americans of the fears immigrants face when deciding to come to the United States, fears from sex traffickers, cartels, and the border patrol. This documentary could also play as a reality check to Americans, making Americans recognize that if immigrants go through all that trouble just to come to a new country the reasoning can be inferred to be more serious then such financial reasons. Villarreal was a great person to take the rails on in this documentary, she made this source matter because she took us one on one with reality, let us see it for ourselves. What also played an important part in this is the fact she did not take a stance, she simply shined a light on immigrants and their struggles.

All forms of sources to spread awareness about immigrants and their struggles is good, but there's one more source that requires much more research and factual data and that is a scholarly source. For example, the Scholarly source named “UC San Diego Working Papers,” written on October 18th, 2017, by Gordon H. Hansan through The Center for Comparative Immigration Studies CCIS at the University of California, San Diego. Within this source the question that is answered is “Why Does Immigration Divide America?: Public Finance and Political Opposition to Open Borders.” Hansan through this scholarly article is trying to reach out to people of an older age, those that will understand a more mature language such as the type he uses, an audience that will also understand his very formal tone that is used throughout the entirety of the article**.**  An example of Hansans mature language can be seen where he states, “To be effective, any change in immigration policy must address enforcement against illegal immigration. Enforcement at U.S. borders, where immigrant authorities currently devote most of their efforts, is ineffective.” Here he was speaking directly using facts, leaving out any personal emotions and instead directly stating what must be done in the system to accomplish a certain goal that is set, the goal being against illegal immigration. The words he used in this mere sentence can also be seen to only be understood by highly educated people, I myself being so young struggled to read through his article. It would seem his purpose is to inform others on his studies, he wants more people to become aware of the politics that come into play when discussing about immigration as stated in the article under, “Sources of Political Opposition to Immigration” on page 4. Once again this writer does not state his stance on the situation but instead provides mere data, all information that he works so hard on. It is important to recognize that this is a 72 page scholarly article, within this article Hansan speaks in the U.S. Immigration Policy and Recent Immigration Trends, Immigrant Demands on Public Benefits, Public Preferences over Immigration Policy, and the necessity of Reforming U.S. Immigration Policy. To many this would not seem so interesting but in the eyes of an immigrant this whole article and the reality of it is so important to immigrants. The audience, being immigrants, uses articles and information such as this to be informed, to know what laws and policies are put in place to protect them, so part of the purpose of this article can also be to help them make articles like these important. If you are a person when they are living in a place where you're not welcome and that you fear you must do all that is necessary to take care of your rights and life.

The 4 sources that I chose were different in many ways, but similar as well. All spoke on immigration, maybe not all speaking the same thing but very similar. Some brought facts and politics while others focused on the more sentimental side, making the audience imagine what it would be like in the life of an immigrant. The newsletter had something in common with the YouTube documentary, both brought either imagined or literal images to our minds, with the newsletter we read as Schryer put an image in our heads of what it would be like as an immigrant while the YouTube documentary brought us head on through the camera to what an immigrant must do and go through. Now, what the magazine and scholarly article had in common was the fact that both were factual, both did not get into what immigrants go through but instead both discussed the politics that are related to this topic. Although all 4 could be really different, they are similar in the fact that they speak on immigration,, and bring a form of awareness to the topic. The 4 sources have a sort of meeting ground all working to destroy the dishonesty within the media today on the concept of immigrants. Each source played an important role in introducing reality to the main target, Americans, and because each brought reality to them it made each equally as important to each other.

Resources:

<https://theconversation.com/america-needs-more-not-fewer-migrant-workers-102627>

<https://youtu.be/5o4d6Wp3u2Q>

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/21366213/trump-immigration-policy-second-term>

<https://escholarship.org/content/qt0v63n81c/qt0v63n81c.pdf>