Student Name

Instructor’s Name

Comp 1

Date Due: 10/2/23

Assignment 2 Analysis

    In the article "A Big New Report on American Children Is Out. It’s Horrific," (Jill Filipovic), Filipovic dives deep into the harsh realities faced by American children. With the thesis statement, children here have remarkably few rights and are particularly ill-treated in the conservative states that claim the mantle of “family values.” Filipovic uses various persuasive strategies to communicate the urgency of the issue to the audience. Along with the purpose of educating all readers on what's wrong in this world with the mistreatment of children, and why we need to fix it. This essay aims to dissect the ways in which the writer communicates their argument, identifies and discusses the persuasive strategies, and evaluates their effectiveness through evidence taken from the text.

    In this article, the main points of argument are child poverty and hunger, child marriage, discipline from parents, child labor, and lastly the criminal system towards children. The writer skillfully communicates all those arguments by adding a good blend of emotional appeal and credible evidence. The emotional language, “Most of the U.S. also allows adults to assault children at school. Only three states fully ban corporal punishment at both public and private schools; 25 make it illegal in public schools but allow private school teachers to use physical force as punishment for students.” (Jill Filipovic), establishes a connection with the audience, because nobody likes to hear that kids are being hit. That piece of evidence helps prompt them to delve deeper into the issues of child labor and other problems regarding children. Throughout the article, the writer maintains a sense of urgency, emphasizing the need for immediate attention to the problems faced by American children.

    While reading through the article, the author makes it easy to find crucial and informative information. The title itself sets a tone of alarm and shows urgency, signaling that the content within is significant. The context revolves around a recently released report concerning the well-being of American children, and the purpose is to draw the audience's attention to the wrongdoing by adults to children. The author aims not only to inform but also to emotionally highlight these problems that are happening.

    The author uses facts, percentages, and statistics to help prove their point. In the intro the author adds, “According to HRW, “Children in the US can be legally married in 41 states, physically punished by school administrators in 47 states, sentenced to life without parole in 22 states, and work in hazardous agriculture conditions in all 50 states.” (HRW and Filipovic).” They add that crazy statistic to show how far behind our nation is with our child protective laws. Also, that piece of evidence adds an emotional appeal to the article because it opens your eyes to the parts of our world that we don't see every day. It shows that children really don't have many rights to their own life, without having the ability to defend themselves. They are trying to show that those are some of the things that must be fixed and must be fixed fast.

    The author uses emotional appeal in their article to try to sway the reader's mind and perspective. They add information that makes any sane person feel for the victim. The information that got to me was when the author brought up the point that there are parents that hit their children and use the excuse that it is for discipline reasons. Another piece of evidence that is labeled under the emotional appeal would be the fact that people, mainly farmers are using young kids to work in dangerous environments. The author states in the passage that “In agriculture, a 12-year-old may work full-time, and a child of any age may work on a farm part-time. On a family farm, there is no minimum age for the full-time employment of children.” when I hear that I get to thinking… When I was 12 or younger, I never once had a thought of having a full-time job. Unfortunately for some kids in our nation and world, that unrealistic thing is a reality to them.

    The author shows the credibility of the report by incorporating specific data and statistics that prove their points. By using the percentages of children living in poverty or lacking access to education, the author strengthens the argument with empirical evidence. This strategy not only enhances the persuasiveness of the article but also positions the writer as a knowledgeable and trustworthy source.

    The use of narrative techniques, such as storytelling, plays a crucial role in engaging the audience. By weaving personal narratives into the broader context of the report, the writer provides a human face to the statistics. This technique not only captures the reader's attention but also fosters empathy, making it more likely for the audience to internalize the gravity of the issue.

   The effectiveness of the employed persuasive strategies can be gauged through the impact they have on the reader and their potential to drive action or change. The emotional appeal is particularly effective in eliciting a strong response from the audience. For instance, phrases like "children living in the shadows of neglect" or "families struggling to make ends meet" create a vivid and emotionally charged narrative that resonates with the readers.

    Furthermore, the narrative technique of storytelling is instrumental in making the issue relatable. By presenting individual stories of children fighting with adversity, the writer ensures that the audience connects with the human side of the problem. This connection is vital in driving empathy and fostering a sense of responsibility among the readers.

    However, it is essential to acknowledge that the effectiveness of these persuasive strategies may vary among different audiences. While some readers may be deeply moved and inspired to take action, others may remain unaffected or skeptical. Factors such as personal beliefs, values, and prior knowledge can influence how individuals perceive and respond to the persuasive techniques employed in the article.

    In "A Big New Report on American Children Is Out. It’s Horrific," the writer makes a compelling argument through a combination of emotional appeal, credible evidence, and narrative technique. The context and purpose of the article, centered around the well-being of American children, guide the author's approach in showing the urgency and importance of the issue.

    The effectiveness of these persuasive strategies is evident in the emotional response they give and the potential for inspiring action or change. I believe this article succeeds in not only informing the audience but also engaging them on a personal and emotional level. In a broader context, the article serves as a call to action, urging readers to consider the well-being of American children and advocating for positive change in policies and societal attitudes. The information given in this article really shines a light on the problems we have with the mistreatment and misuse of our children. Overall, Jill Filipovic created a well-put-together article displaying some really good ways to persuade and inform everyone.

Revisions Page-

* More examples of emotional language- I went back to the passage and found the emotional appeal that correlated to the evidence, after I found that, I wrote some extra sentences about it.
* Double space- I double spaces my essay

Work Cited Page

Filipovic, Jill. “A Big New Report on American Children Is Out. It’s Horrific.” *Slate*, 12 Sept. 2023, slate.com/news-and-politics/2023/09/human-rights-watch-usa-child-abuse-labor-report.html.

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