

Audrey Mitchell
Dr. Puterbaugh
English 103: Composition and Critical Thinking
01/17/2021

Essay 1: Rhetorical Analysis



Name: Audrey Mitchell

Professor: Dr Puterbaugh

Course: English 103: Composition and Critical Thinking

01/17/2021

Audrey Mitchell
Dr. Puterbaugh
English 103: Composition and Critical Thinking
01/17/2021

Opinion article link: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/09/opinion/trump-bob-woodward-coronavirus.html>.

Their decisions and acts have been a boiling pot of controversy ever since Trump and his administration assumed responsibility for handling the novel coronavirus. Throughout the time of COVID-19 occurring within the U.S., several concerns and allegations have been posted, so I thought this source would be an incredibly insightful insight into how major groups feel about Trump's handling of the outbreak. The reaction of Donald Trump to the spread of COVID-19 in the United States has been perceived, at least according to this New York Times editorial, as negligent and slow. Trump underestimated the seriousness of the virus at the beginning of the epidemic, maintaining that it was being monitored and that in a matter of months it would be defeated. This caused the symptoms of the coronavirus in the United States to be more underestimated and neglected, causing thousands of deaths. The editorial writer(s) would like to add to the growing controversy accusing Trump and his administration of mishandling the US coronavirus outbreak. Their key point is that there would not have been as much economic decline as the rate of infection/fatality if Trump and the government had reacted faster to it.

The New York Times has regularly backed the Democratic Party in its news reports and editorials for the last few decades. We should also conclude that this specific source criticizing Donald Trump is subject to political bias. The Editorial Board seeks to reassure readers that Trump has failed to respond to the outbreak of the coronavirus and that potential changes should be made that might restore a stronger sense of responsibility (The Editorial Board, 2020). The people who have suspected Trump's coronavirus response have been in their intended audience as a democratic-influenced outlet. The New York Times understands how uncertain people are in

Audrey Mitchell
Dr. Puterbaugh
English 103: Composition and Critical Thinking
01/17/2021

such circumstances, leading them to take advantage of this because this has become a stirring subject in America. The pandemic of COVID-19 has created a wealth of controversial topics around the globe. One of those subjects has revolved within the U.S. around the leadership of the president amid the virus epidemic.

The editorial uses logic to persuade the readers that President Trump has failed. The editorial has given a great background to how the Coronavirus occurred in the US and the steps the President has taken to manage it (Saaty, 2020). In an interview with a journalist, President Trump conceded that “This is deadly stuff, you just breathe the air, and that’s how it’s passed” (The Editorial Board, 2020). This shows that the actions taken by the president were out of the knowledge he had concerning how the virus is spread from one person to another. However, the failure to contain the virus by taking the necessary precautions only demonstrates neglect on the part of the President. The author has also used evidence to suggest the President’s failures. He suggests that the President silenced everyone that knew and wanted to speak about his mishandling of the situation. He says, “So it is that, in the pandemic’s seventh month, Scott Atlas, a neuroradiologist with no background in infectious disease outbreaks, is arguing that it’s not the government’s job to stamp out the coronavirus, while the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention remain silent” (The Editorial Board, 2020). This is meant to convince the reader into believing that President Trump failed in his bid to manage the pandemic. The use of logos appeals to the readers very much as it communicates meaning.

The author uses pathos to convince the readers that the article conveys truths about president Trump’s failures concerning the handling of the coronavirus. Pathos is an appeal to people’s emotions through the use of statistics, images, numbers, and calculations (Ting et al.,

Audrey Mitchell
Dr. Puterbaugh
English 103: Composition and Critical Thinking
01/17/2021

2020). The author has used statistics and numbers carefully and in a way that will be convincing to the readers about the president's failure in handling the infection. For instance, he says, "If the United States had the same coronavirus fatality rate as Canada, more than 100,000 Americans could still be alive today" (The Editorial Board, 2020). Moreover, they note that "Mr. Trump's lack of leadership almost certainly made the nation's suffering greater, its death toll higher and its economic costs more severe in the long term" (The Editorial Board, 2020). This statistic shows that if the government had taken the necessary precautionary measures at a faster rate the deaths could have been managed and stopped. It is clear that using pathos, the statistic given by the author seeks to convince the reader that had the president done better, the number of deaths from the virus would have been lower than the current standings.

Overall, throughout the article, the author has used pathos and logos to persuade the reader that President Trump failed to manage the coronavirus in the United States of America. The emotional appeal and the appeal to sight brought by the respective aspects serve a great role in enhancing the reader's uptake of the information being conveyed with a lot of passion. The author gave clear background information on how the virus arrived in the United States, clearly stating the President's failure. These are basic elements that assist me in making a proper judgment on any piece of writing.

Audrey Mitchell
Dr. Puterbaugh
English 103: Composition and Critical Thinking
01/17/2021

References

Saaty, A. (2020). The Rhetoric of Twitter in Terms of the Aristotelian Appeals (" Logos, Ethos, and Pathos") in ESL/EFL Educational Settings. *English Language Teaching*, 13(5), 115-124.

The Editorial Board. (2020, September 9). *Mr. Trump knew it was deadly and airborne*. The New York Times - Breaking News, World News & Multimedia. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/09/opinion/trump-bob-woodward-coronavirus.html>

Ting, S. H., Ungau, M., & Jerome, C. (2020). Use of Logos, Pathos, Ethos for Persuasion in Cancer Pamphlets.