

Rosalin Alzaga

Professor

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Analyzing and Argument: The New Jim Crow, Michelle Alexander

What claim is the text making?

The major claim that Michelle makes in the text is about the debates about race that most Americans seemingly are ignoring. It is assumed through the few media pundits and some politicians have moved from race, but the truth is that America has entered into an era of post-racialism. The era has been referred to as the colorblindness promised land. The notion is not only experienced in America but all-around major parts of the world. The author says that the era of post-racialism is just like fiction. Michelle says that the present era has proliferated the situation and therefore we have not come

to the extinction of racial caste, but rather it is still alive and mostly thriving in America. There is mass incarceration **due to color of the poor people** and this adding to the caste in the United States. The author has simply implied her main message and not like a good-thesis statement. The main message of the author is not limited in any way since it is a mere truth about what is happening around us every day.

How is the claim supported?

The author has employed several other instances of race that have helped in supporting her claim. For instance, Michelle postulates how a poster caught her eyes when she was about to board at Oakland in California. The poster was about how the new drug laws had become the New Jim Crow. Michelle paused for sometime and skimmed the poster. Additionally, more people were being concerned about what was happening. For instance, the holding of meeting by the radical groups about the brutality of the policy and the war on drugs and the expansion of the Prison system in America that seemed to **take more Blacks than the Americans.** Michelle says that despite the criminal justice system being racist, there is no need of making such absurd comparisons. Michelle has started her new work as the director of the Racial Justice Project and had to assume that the criminal justice system was racially biased just the same way some of the institutions were affected with unconscious and conscious problems of biasness. Michelle gives evidence how there are more African Americans in correctional centers than the Americans despite the Americans making many mistakes than the Africans. Additionally, there was statistics indicating how the majority of the working African

Americans have been implicated with criminal records. The percent of African American is about 80%.

What appeals besides logical ones are used?

The author appeals more to the emotions of the readers to some extent which is **unbelievably received**. For instance, the author says how when he tells people about mass incarceration amounting to New Jim Crow, she is met with a shocked disbelief. Most people ask how she can say that a racial caste exists as they give examples of President Barack Obama, and Oprah Winfrey. Michelle argues that people from all the races are using and selling drugs at same rates but only the blacks who have been branded the enemy of the drugs war is defined.

Are any counter arguments acknowledged?

Despite some people conceding with the evidence about racial injustice and the disparities due to the data presented, they end up arguing that violent crimes are what is motivating the war on crimes and for this reason creating a counterargument to the author argument. They argue that the prisons are full of offenders of violent crimes and not merely the blacks and they basically end their argument simply. Nonetheless, such arguments have not been **^** properly and in a respectful way because it seems to be based on falsification.

What outside sources information does the writer cite?

The author has sourced from the Civil Rights movement that is protecting the low-class Americans. Additionally, the author mentions how the wealthy class will take their children to expensive schools and give them everything they needed while the low-class

will be facing demotion. Besides, the author uses life experiences from the people to express what they feel about the incarceration. Some of the convicts have for instance postulated how they feel their felony conviction to be a mental punishment.

Do you detect any fallacies?

From the arguments of the author, there is no fallacy that can be mentioned out. All the statements and from the evidence that the author has presented is enough to show that her claim is valid. But we can regard the statements of those arguing that the prisons are filled with violent crimes victims and not Blacks with non-violent drug crimes as being fallacy. There statements to some extent can be persuasive and causing confusion to the focus of what the author intends to pass.

