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Article Analysis

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Introduction

The article by Julian Aguilar describes Webb County's reaction after realizing Trump government plans to build a wall to separate them from Mexicans. Residents insist that the wall would not be effective as undocumented immigrants would find other ways. Leaders such as Judge Tijerina, the county commissioner, mayor, and city council members also reject the project but claim to be powerless as the President gives the directive.

Close Reading

One of the factors to consider in this analysis is the author and credentials. It is written by Julian Aguilar, an immigration and border security reporter. He lives in El Paso and has a Bachelor's degree in English from Texas University. Also, he has a master's degree in journalism from North Texas University. The writer is authorized to write, being a member of the Texas Tribune, reporting on the Texas-Mexico border matters. Another aspect is the evidence provided to support the claims made and the sources. Mainly, the writer claims that Webb County rejects the wall building as it would affect them and the relationship with Mexicans who have been their partners.

Evidence is collected from the residents and the leaders in the region, quoting their actual words. For example, Lugo, ³one of the residents, says, "immigrants are going to fight to get across even if they put up a wall" (Aguilar, 2020). Another source of evidence is the Laredo Morning Times, which reported on how the Trump administration would use army money to expand the fence in Webb County. Before writing the article, Aguilar researched the government's attitude towards the wall building, where Trump is determined to build it. Also, information on both the residents and leaders in the region perception was collected coming up with article's heading that Webb County is being hit by information that a wall to separate them from Mexico is becoming a reality.

Evaluation

Aguilar meets the burden of proof by providing direct words of Webb County residents and leaders. Carlota Lugo is one of the mentioned members who have lived in the region for two decades. Her words are described, saying the wall would not be effective even though it would not affect the daily routines. Notably, the writer uses the words “Lugo and the neighbors” (Aguilar, 2020), implying that her words represent the whole community. Besides, leaders' words are also quoted to show they disagree with the project but are powerless to ensure changes. Judge Tijerina’s words are “we are talking about the federal government. What are we going to tell them? The federal government does what they are going to do” (Aguilar, 2020). Providing primary data in the piece meets the proof demands.

The other side of the story, discussing President Trump's determination to build the wall, is discussed by quoting reliable news materials. The Laredo Morning Times discusses how the government plans to utilize the military funds, so 52 more miles in fencing the county are added. Additionally, the government also said that \$²3.8 billion would be allocated from Pentagon budget to aid in the construction (Aguilar, 2020). Official sources such as the County Commissioner Court are used to analyze the other side of the story, making readers get equal information from the two sides. The author does not favor any side but provides facts on the wall building, making it a reliable source as personal opinions are not included.

Other news outlets covered the story differently, where comparisons indicate that Aguilar is a better journalist. Others covered one side of the story, especially on the government actions to build the Mexican wall. They describe how Trump believes that the wall would control immigration and, therefore, force the officials to take the directives. On the other hand, Aguilar interacts with the society affected and the local leaders, to understand their perception. The writer then gives facts on how the administration goes into the process. As noted above, the journalist does not offer his ideas on the issue as the intention is to report

facts. Therefore, he is a reliable journalist because facts are provided with appropriate citations on the two sides of the project.

Regarding the information left unknown, unanswered, and unclear, the article reports nothing. Based on the difference between Webb County's perception and the administration, the article would discuss the way forward. For example, he would assess the actions taken by either the party to ensure the project continues or stops. He does not cover the part, as the article ends after the county's leaders' ideas. It indicates the journalism's approach to the story is neutral. He does play the role of a journalist, which is to report other than convincing the public. Besides, he only reports what is known and factual and would probably report again after more information is collected. Thus, he considers the story equally and does not show interest in either of the sides.

Conclusion

Aguilar's most significant contribution to sharing knowledge as a journalist is reporting matters precisely as they were said. As noted in the paper, the writer approached the story neutrally, telling the readers about the topic's real situation. Webb County residents reject the project based on their words, while the government, as reported in the media, sees the need to build the wall. Covering the two sides and providing facts only makes the readers comprehend each party's attitude. Aguilar gives readers a chance to think about the situation and make conclusions on what is likely to happen in the future. Additionally, direct quotes help share knowledge as distortion is controlled when statements are interpreted in communication. However, relying on informed citizenry has weaknesses in information sharing. The author could have interacted with vital information, but it was not factual and proven, the data is not included in the report. In that case, the information reaching the readers is incomplete; this would lead to wrong conclusions. It is the case because some

opinion-based statements offer vital guidance in solving issues, and if not included in reports, the conflicts extend for a long.

Reference

Aguilar Julian. (25th February 2020). Webb County and Laredo coming face to face with the reality of a border wall. (Updated 12 PM).

<https://www.texastribune.org/2020/02/25/webb-county-laredo-trump-border-wall-construction>

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