Rhetorical Analysis of Media Sources

Jose L Cortez

University of Texas at El Paso

Abstract

Gay Rights is a topic that is of concern for a lot of people. The media is providing the world with information on how gay rights are being handled by the government and what people think about it. Four articles were researched for this paper and they provided information on how the media contributing to the opinion that the audience has. Even though most of the articles provide information on the topic, they usually provide information on how this affects people that are for it and by this the author shows his or her point of view. For example, one of the authors chose to show a video that shows innocent children in their early years and by this the author is appealing to its audience and making his point of view about the issue be understood. The media used in every article provides information about the topic, but also persuades its readers to understand the author’s point of view.

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Today we will be analyzing four different articles that have in common the same issue, which is Gay Rights. The articles were gathered from different media sources and provide different point of views. We are going to be analyzing the logs, pathos and ethos for every article and by doing so it would provide a better understanding for each one of the articles. First we are going to review the logos, then pathos and then ethos for the following articles: Website for Those Born This Way (Jennifer Smith, CNN 2011), ‘Don’t ask’: Military Adjust as Gay Ban is Lifted (Julie Watson, Associated Press 2011), Ban on Gay Pride Parade a ‘Dark Day for Human Rights’ (News wires, 2011) and Anti-gay Ads are Priest’s View Alone, Diocese Says (Aaron Bracamontes / El Paso Times 2011). By analyzing these articles we will be able to get a better understanding of what they gay community is dealing with.

**LOGOS**

The first article according to (Jennifer Smith, CNN 2011) provides us some information about a website that was created by Paul V in which he has posted pictures of gay people in their early childhood. The pictures show how they would take pictures and how these individuals would behave even before they know they were gay. For instance, one of the pictures shows a kid with feminine clothing. If we were to see the pictures now that we know that they are gay it would be logic that they were born that way and it was not a choice that they made. After reading the article and watching the video that was provided I thought that it was logical that kids are born that way and the article persuade us to think that logically kids are gay before they know or as conservative people say “they make the choice”.

The article ‘Don’t Ask’: Military Adjust as Gay Ban is Lifted (Julie Watson, Associated Press 2011) provides us the logic of overturning a law that was implemented long ago, that would prohibit gay people from telling anyone of their sexual orientation in the military. The pictures provided by (Julie Watson, Associated Press 2011) that shows military personal marching with a banner with the words “Honoring Service members” makes us thinks logically no matter what our point of view is towards this topic. Even a conservative person would think that they should honor members of the armed forces no matter if they are gay or not, because they are serving their country and they are fighting for us. Now, by looking at the picture without even knowing that they are gay, we logically think that they are great soldiers and we should show them respect. Julie Watson (Associated Press 2011) stated that some high awarded military personnel were dismissed just because of their sexual preference. It is not logical that because they are gay, they are not as capable as other service men in the battle field.

An international article Ban on Gay Pride Parade a ‘Dark Day for Human Rights’ (News wires, 2011) provides information on a gay pride parade that was cancelled by the government because of violence. Because of how this evolved in previous years, it was logical for the government to cancel it and avoid violence. In the other hand, people who are fighting for gay rights cannot see any logical point of view, because the government is going against their right to express themselves and secondly, because they see it as taking steps back and not going forward. The logic behind the picture chosen by News Wires (2011) is that the government is trying to protect its citizens from violence.

A local article Anti-gay Ads are Priest’s View Alone, Diocese Says (Aaron Bracamontes / El Paso Times 2011) educates us on what is going on in our community. The author Aaron Bracamontes (2011) writes about how religion is getting involved in government issues, but then again the church is part of the people. There is an image attached to the article that shows a priest delegating something in a court environment and this show that it is logical that a priest protest for his rights and the rights of the people.

**PATHOS**

The emotion that comes thru in the article Website for Those Born This Way (Jennifer Smith, CNN 2011) is strong. The video shows us pictures of innocent children and how their poses are innocent, but at the same time if the person looking at it is against anything that could look gay would not like those pictures unless you are the parent. This article and the video bring some emotions that gays are people like everyone else and that they had a childhood like everyone else. Just because of their sexual orientation does not mean that they did not go through the same process of life. The author tries to show us the emotional side of being gay and how gay individuals think and how they lived their childhood. Overall this article was emotional.

‘Don’t ask’: Military Adjust as Gay Ban is Lifted (Julie Watson, Associated Press 2011) is an emotional article, but it targets people who are involved in the military. The emotion behind the picture in the article is that you can see soldiers from different denomination marching asking for them to be honored. Because the article is talking about gay rights, the picture gives us a an idea that gay service members are asking for us to honor them no matter what their sexual preference is and it is emotional just to think that they were not honored just because of a matter that does not stop them from accomplishing their duties. Julie Watson (2011) shows us a side of emotion that makes the reader have an emotional reaction towards this issue.

In the article Ban on Gay Pride Parade a ‘Dark Day for Human Rights’ (News wires, 2011) we can see how it may be emotional even though it is more of an information piece. Some activists that were interview mention that we are taking steps back instead of going forward. The author provides information on how gay community feels about the cancellation of the parade in which they are able to express themselves and also show that they are fighting for a cause. If we pay attention to the point of view given by the government when they cancelled the parade, we can understand that they are trying to protect the people involved in the parade. It is emotional to think that by protecting gay, the government is violating their rights and also preventing them from fighting towards achieving equality.

An issue that involves El Paso is Gay Rights. The article written by Aaron Bracamontes (El Paso Times 2011) shows the passion that some priests are taking towards this topic. If the reader is someone that is involved in church, he or she would be able to see that for the community is it an emotional topic. Some people who attend church and believe a conservative way might have some trouble understanding why the government is fighting for gay rights and might experience anger towards its representatives. For example, the petition that was singed to remove some politicians from their current positions shows how angry people are towards the decision made to override the people’s votes. Now, a person that believes in equality and that everyone should have the same benefits might find offensive how this individuals are trying to oppress someone just because they have a different sexual orientation.

**ETHOS**

I will go ahead and explain ethos for all of the articles in one paragraph. These articles are provided by national sources which are of high prestige. The articles provide dates, location, and even information on how we may contact the author. Just by the fact that I was able to locate this articles from the sources that were given to me by the university professor I would see them as credible sources. The first article written by Jennifer Smith (CNN 2011) Website for those born this way comes from a credible source. CNN is a nationally source for news, that provides credible information. The website was first founded to provide some information, but then became a well-known website that provides information for young people. ‘Don’t ask’: Military adjusts as gay ban is lifted is provided by the San Francisco Chronicle. This is an informative article and by providing information of the issue makes this article credible. The article also provides a page number in which the article was printed in the new paper. The article Ban on Gay Pride Parade does provide us with information of an event where the parade was cancelled due to safety precaution, but because it is an international article the credibility of it is doubtful. Most of the articles here in the US provide the name of the author who wrote it and this article does not provide a lot of information on who wrote it. The last article that was reviewed was Anti-gay ads are priest’s view alone, diocese says; which comes from a local newspaper. If you know about this source it would allow you to think that the article comes from a reliable source. This article is highly credible because the article also provides the name of the author and how to contact him for further questions.

Gay Rights is a topic that is being addressed internationally. A reader is able to see why an author chose a picture or video to show his point of view and to persuade the reader to think the same way or have the same opinion. For example, in one of the articles, the author added a video that allows us to visualize what he is writing about and by doing so he is making the reader understand the issue in a broader way. The different types of media that are used in every article serve a purpose and that is to appeal to the reader, so the reader can understand what the author is talking about and provide a stronger point of view.

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