Luis Vasquez 12/15/19

I ended up trying to dig a bit deeper into why exactly my father and grandfathers preaching spoke to me and why they stuck with me. I also clean up the grammar and sentences. Cutting out the extra bits and pieces i don't need is the last change I made.

**Literacy narrative**

I was born and raised in the Bronx, a borough with a tainted reputation as the dangerous part of New York. Truth be told, my borough is a lovely place with beautiful attractions such as the Botanical Garden, Yankee Stadium and the Bronx Zoo despite these beautiful places I had grown up only hearing about the lousy truths of the Bronx. My eldest sister, cousins and friends alike would always bring up one thing we bronxites lacked that many from the other boroughs had and that was education.

Not only was the education I had subpar when compared to somebody from say Manhattan it also lacked the sort of environment where you can feel truly at home. Throughout my years of schooling, not once did I ever connect to a teacher whether it be because they didn't look like me or because they didn't speak like me or lead a similar life to me and I never really thought much of it, yet looking back this probably subconsciously helped fuel my disinterest in hobbies I was once interested in such as reading and writing. When I was younger, I would often turn on the TV and just flip through channels reading all the names that came up and in school I would be ecstatic whenever a book sale came. I loved reading and was praised for knowing an abundant amount of words Reading was an integral part of my life as a kid but that all changed as I got older and got more of the same. my teachers throughout Kindergarten to 5th grade all encouraged me to read and keep on going but it all fell flat. Not a single one was familiar they didn't look like me act like me or even talk like me it got to a point where in my memory of these teachers all I could see were faceless silhouettes, I couldn't see myself in any of these teachers. My disinterest got to a point where dropping out was starting to form as an option I could take the only thing that stopped me were two people without formal education or a degree of any kind to their name.

My grandfather and father, two men I am told I act a lot like and who haven't had proper education would preach to me the importance of books and education time and time again, despite their lack of a degree or schooling each time they would preach their words rang louder than any bell, teacher, or counselor’s words I had ever heard. It wasn’t just because we were literally related though that does help it was more so because I could see myself in these men. I spoke like them and acted like them; their words struck a chord that no other teachers found. I attribute this to not so much to the fact that it was my grandfather and father who spoke to me but because it was almost as if I came to have a chat with my younger self to pull myself out of the mud, they helped ignite a flame that would help keep me on a good path. These two men despite their flaws and lack of education could keep me in check because other than blood ties i could relate to them and instill myself in their shoes. Heroic stories and tales of an underdog we naturally gravitate towards people we can relate to, if we can't relate, we become detached and sort of apathetic. I've seen it all too much especially in the Bronx where more so than better standards of schools these kids need someone to keep them in check that knows their struggles just like i found in my father and grandfather.

I revised my annotations mainly by adding insight and explaining what the orator meant by certain phrases in his speeches and what purpose it served. I also recognized the uses of logos, ethos, and pathos in each speech and explained how this would bring about a certain response whether it be emotional.of course I fixed up grammar and spelling mistakes and run on sentences.

Luis Angel Vasquez 10/26/19

English 1101

**“Ancient History Sourcebook: Arrian: Speech of Alexander the Great, from The Campaigns of Alexander.” Internet History Sourcebooks,**

This speech by Alexander the Great was used to motivate his troops when he sought to conquer India. At this point in his campaign many had lost the motivation or will to continue. “I observe, gentlemen, that when I would lead you on a new venture you no longer follow me with your old spirit. I have asked you to meet me that we may come to a decision together: are we, upon my advice, to go forward, or, upon yours, to turn back?” he poses a question to his soldiers to insinuate that he is the man in charge but he will listen to them so they can come to an agreement. After this display of understanding from alexander he goes on to list all the lands that he and his army have conquered to show them the fruits of their labor and that if they were to cease their advance there would be warlike people who would revolt if left unconquered. Here alexander uses logos saying people left unconquered will only try to conquer us which did hold up to be true after his death. He then goes on to use his credo as a commander, king and soldier and tells his soldiers this “I could not have blamed you for being the first to lose heart if I, your commander, had not shared in your exhausting marches and your perilous campaigns; it would have been natural enough if you had done all the work merely for others to reap the reward. But it is not so. You and I, gentlemen, have shared the labor and shared the danger, and the rewards are for us all. The conquered territory belongs to you; from your ranks the governors of it are chosen”. This is a great display in ethos where he motivates his forces to keep going by reminding them that they have all been through the trenches and had gruesome battles together but at the same time he also uses logos by exploiting the greed of his soldiers explaining that all the riches have been shared this whole time and there are more riches to steal and split.

**Theodore Roosevelt - The Man with the Muck-Rake, Eidenmuller, Michael E.**

The Man with the Muck-rake reveals to the public eye the necessity of exposing the filth left behind by monopolies. Though he does not advocate attacking or exposing the filth while adding muck that was never there to begin with. “The liar is no whit better than the thief, and if his mendacity takes the form of slander, he may be worse than most thieves. It puts a premium upon knavery untruthfully to attack an honest man, or even with hysterical exaggeration to assail a bad man with untruth.” Theodore is in support of the muckrakers, yet this is an attack on all the muckrakers who use slander used to provoke an emotional response from them stating they are no better than the thieves they seek to stop. Roosevelt uses his position as president to pass many legislations against big business and to approve of the muckrakers and to show his support. He also uses logic by reminding the muckrakers that if they use slander to bring down the corrupt businessmen then their cause will lose supporters and their credibility will be destroyed by their own slanderous tactics.

**Jim Carrey's Commencement Address with Transcript. Motivation Mentalist, 8 Sept. 2015,**

Jim Carrey, comedian, actor and writer spoke at Maharishi university in 2014. His commencement speech while humorous and entertaining told a larger story of self-doubt, fear and conformity afflicting the minds and hearts of many if not all people. He first brings up how interconnected we all are to one another and how we are all a part of a bigger picture and that our bodies are no more than a container for us to experience creation though, stating our bodies are not what define us. He goes on to say we all have no limits and that the skill to separate reality and fiction has kept us safe and practical. He claims we disguise our paths and decisions in life as practical when in reality they are made out of fear, this challenging claim is great as it may be considered both emotional and logical speaking on fear and how it influences our decisions and brains forcing us to reevaluate our decisions in life and to see if fear played a key factor in our positions in life. His father’s decision to be an accountant over a comedian is used as an emotional example because even though his father made the safe choice of being an accountant, he in fact was fired from that job after some time. This, Mr. Carrey states taught him a valuable lesson, “you may fail at what you hate, so you might as well take a chance on what you love”. The doors open when you make the choice to take that risk it is not your job to figure out how it’s going to happen, but you have to make the choice. He claims, “life doesn’t happen to you, it happens for you”. Jim carrey claims faith, risks and choices are the vehicles that you should use to overcome fear and to make the decisions that lead to fulfillment.

**Person. Remarks of Bill Gates, Harvard Commencement 2007. Harvard Gazette, Harvard Gazette, 7 Mar. 2017,**

Bill Gates founder of Microsoft and Harvard dropout would give a speech at the college 30 years after he dropped out. He gave this speech to help motivate students to help discover new things and to help others using their education to bring less inequity to the world and to act. He uses emotion to further his point saying he left Harvard more intelligent yet was so oblivious and unaware of the inequity in the world and the disease in the world. Gates says this to inform the students that although they may have graduated from college and come out with new knowledge, they are not yet done learning. He uses logic to tell his audience that with the knowledge they gained and the advanced tools and science at their fingertips they can help the less fortunate much more than the generation that came before them. He motivates the graduating class and staff of Harvard to improve the lives of people around the world by evoking an emotional response by stating they are the cream of the crop intellectually and should pave the way to helping third world nations with complex problems as he has been doing with disease in nations across the world. Complexity is a part of the problem of inequity though he reassures them by saying that he has faith that they can and will find ways to maneuver around these complex problems and be the solution to a much bigger problem than themselves.

**The Gettysburg Address,** [**https://rmc.library.cornell.edu**](https://rmc.library.cornell.edu)**.**

The battle at Gettysburg, one of the biggest battles of the civil war had Abraham Lincoln deliver the Gettysburg address a speech that assured the soldiers that if they were to die there or not, they helped fight for the freedom promised by America. 1776 is brought up by Lincoln when he mentions the founding of the United States a Country founded on the principles of liberty and the proposition that all men are created equal, he uses his position as president of the united states to uphold these vows he and his fellow Americans hold true, and to remind his men of their cause. He talks on the death of many soldiers that will inevitably happen during the battle to emotionally connect to his soldiers yet reminds them that they will not die in vain and that they will be remembered for their fight to change this nation. He states the speech will be forgotten but the battle that you men have fought valiantly in will be remembered he says, satiating the greed of some men who will be fighting for glory and not reform. “Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure.'' He reaches out and put this weight on the shoulders of soldiers telling them that if they were to fail here today it would be a show of whether america would last as a nation united or would fall into nothing.

**We Shall Fight on the Beaches. The International Churchill Society, 13 Apr. 2017,**

Winston Churchill, one of the greatest orators in the last 100 years and prime minister of Great Britain from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955. Spoke his famous we shall fight on the beaches speech at the House of Commons on June 4th, 1940 after the famous battle of Dunkirk. This retreat from france to Britain would serve as a huge loss in the to both French and British citizens and troops. Churchill starts by evoking an emotional response as he acknowledges the loss of 30,000+ men. He goes on to state that they did not die in vain by stating that the Royal Air Force inflicted heavy losses to the German air force of at least 4 to 1 and the navy brought home 335,000+ men using only 1,000 ships. He does state that this retreat cannot be counted as a victory due to losses in materials and men but even with these major losses he urges the people to not lose confidence in the British government, he uses his credibility as prime minister and promises that the British parliament is doing all in their power to defend the British isles to help comfort the british citizens. Lastly he tells the people that no matter the adversity faced “we shall defend our Island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender,”. With this statement he claims that action will be taken to stop this threat no matter the cost, He wants the people to rise up to the challenge and defend their nation and to never back down.

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I changed the second letter mostly and decided to elaborate on the effects of corruption and how it hinders education. I also brought up the countries with the most corruption and low literacy rates to help bolster my point of corruption being the bane of lack of education. Grammar and spelling errors were fixed.

Knowledge is an aspect of life everyone should have the freedom to pursue and all should be able to attain knowledge through the use of educational institutes, programs, and libraries. The access to education should never be taken away.

Education is a right

Education

12/4/19

Venue: United Nations General Assembly

The access to education should be a right that all Children, men and women should be able to take advantage of. Though this is my belief and the belief of many others, The situation we have here today is a display of the opposite, where more than 72 million children in the world who are at primary school age aren't enrolled and approximately 759 million adults are classed as illiterate. People drone on about how we are in the “age of information” and how any information we need is at our fingertips though they forget to include those whose access to information is limited or next to none. Education should not be a privilege given to those only in first world countries but something every country employs to educate their youth; those considered the future of every country. Education is directly linked to many aspects of quality of life such as health, technology, and employment. Third world countries are afflicted with significantly higher rates of disease due to the fact that the populace of these nations are denied education on topics such as hygiene that would seem common knowledge to any individual from a first world country. Technology that helps fight off diseases and helps production in these countries are almost nonexistent because the public is denied access to the resources their country has in abundance and don't have the knowledge to work them. Most citizens of third world countries are denied the opportunity for a good job and wages that keep them out of poverty due to almost all men having the same level of education or lack thereof and women either receiving worse or no formal education at all keeping unemployment at a high rate in a majority of these countries. Ultimately the lack of education leads to High crime rates, Corruption, disease and poverty and can all be resolved by the addition of formal/free education. Education as a whole can be improved in all countries yet widespread access to some form of education or knowledge should be of utmost importance for most if not all countries on this globe, we all inhabit together. Right after Climate change I truly believe the UN should focus on improving education in countries that have almost no form of institution to help increase global IQ and bringing unity in the world through the connection of knowledge. UNICEF is hard at work trying to bring some form of access to education to children in need and do a great job though we want to know just how the public of both first world and third world countries help tackle this issue?

12/4/19

The Washington Post

1301 K Street NW; Washington, D.C. 20071

Dear editor

Children are being kept in the slums and poverty, yet no one is reporting it. This is the product of what happens to children that aren’t given tools or more importantly education to learn a multitude of subjects that may help them advance their families position in life. many generations ago, such as the dark ages where society reverted to basic lifestyles where even royalty didn't know how to read or write. That was nearly 1400 years ago, all children nowadays should be able to read and write and go to school to soak up as much knowledge as they can and frankly it is abhorrent a multitude of adults and children are kept at the bottom and are robbed of the chance at attaining an education or the skill set to succeed. Corrupt governments are allowed to thrive in third world countries due to the lack of power and opportunity given to the public. Corruption rates are much higher in countries that have low literacy rates such is the case with many African countries, the continent with the highest rate of corruption and some of the lowest literacy rates in the world. Millions of children old enough to be in primary school are not enrolled due to many factors including corruption and many more adults are considered illiterate and this is problematic that in the 21st century children and adults alike are being refused an education which is why I believe all children should have access to some sort of education. The importance of education is usually understated due to all if not most children in first world countries being required to be in some form of school at certain ages in their life so we tend to take the prospect of education or school for granted yet we never stop to think just how bad the lack of education in a country is. A lack of education can lead to bad hygiene, high STD rates, lack of infrastructure, and no systems in place such as laws or even basic sewer systems. This is a sort of life only seen during the dark ages where the previous generations and societies were so sophisticated, yet future generations regressed so far that the common practice of reading was lost, and they lead simple lives and were taken advantage of. There is no reason to keep the population of a country ignorant or uneducated unless you want to take advantage of them which i refuse to believe is the only problem standing in the way of building educational institutions in countries that need them due to this being a very corrupt and evil reason to keep the masses unschooled. The world is changing with problems we all as humans have to face and I believe all hands need to be on deck or we are doomed so educating the population of the planet is critical.

Sincerely

Luis Vasquez

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I changed the overall structure of the rhetorical analysis piece. I changed the flow to follow Steve Jobs speech going from his first talking point to the next. I go into more detail explaining his talking points and how they tie into his rhetoric. And of course, grammar and spelling needed some work so i fixed it.

**Rhetorical analysis**

Steve Jobs, one of America's most recognizable figures uses his speech at Stanford to help inspire the many students who are graduating and entering the real world. The Argument he poses is to follow their dreams and to do the work that they love and find fulfilling. Jobs uses his own experiences and lists them as certain aspects of his life such as “connecting the dots”, “love and loss” and “Death” he structures it very well starting the speech off slow and using ethos or his credibility as Steve Jobs to convince the newly graduated students that they must have faith in something and keep the belief in themselves or karma, destiny, or their gut. And progressively uses an emotional approach when talking about love and loss and the death section. His story of love goes into detail about how he found work that he loved to do at a young age and loves the change he has brought due to his work. The loss comes in the form of him getting fired from the company he co-founded with a good friend of his, this example evokes emotion due to just how many people can relate to this scenario where you dedicate your life to the things they love only to have it taken away from them. His topic of death brings up his close call with death in the form of pancreatic cancer he goes into depth on how this exact point in his life really did change his outlook on life and how this experience with death made him really rush to accomplish tasks he thought he'd have time for. He uses this to tell the audience to get what you want saying death is something inevitable and something we must all face yet we shouldn't wait till it lingers over us to start living life as if the next day may be our last. He uses ethos as the co-founder of Apple to help bring his point across stating he didn't graduate from college, yet that didn't stop him from finding work that he loved to do stating no matter the background you can find your "Purpose".

I changed the entire structure and did better to explain just how I was affected by the loss of my grandfather. And I explained the day through my eyes and my memories instead of just explaining who my grandfather was. I tried to get somewhat emotional with this piece as im not very good at conveying emotion through writing.

**Personal experience**

I loved my grandfather may he rest in peace. I was only 13 when my grandfather died of cancer, I remember the day vividly. It was June and summer was nearly upon us and I hadn't seen my grandfather in weeks which was odd because him and I had shared a room for several years, yet he was nowhere to be found. Multiple cousins, uncles and aunts were flooding into my house and were sad for some odd reason, I was happy though because I got to hang out with my cousins that I didn't see very often. The day went by fairly quickly and it got very dark and at near midnight someone shoots up the steps up to my apartment and announces that he had been pronounced dead and everybody just burst into tears all but me and my father at least that's what I thought until my dad says he's taking a shower because him and his siblings are heading to the airport to go to the Dominican republic, I just so happen to pass by the bathroom and as my father takes a shower I hear him start crying. I was now the only one yet to shed a single tear and I was the grandchild who had seen him the most. Looking back on this moment and remembering it my grandfather was a very large part of my life and helped me get through school. He didn't go to school yet he went on about how I needed to be better than him and my father, He didn't speak often due to a speech impediment he had and his lack of grammar yet when he did speak there were always gems of wisdom dropped for me. He would encourage me to go out and learn all I can and has had a huge impact on whether or not I continued, his death reminds me that I had someone who motivated me to be the best and even though he died, I cannot let him down.

**Reflection**

My growth as a writer over the course of this semester has been exponential even though it was only a short three months. In this time, I learned about new topics such as rhetoric, annotation of certain writers works and digging deep to analyze texts bringing the writers intended purpose out or at least explaining my perception of certain texts. Our first text mother tongue was a great starting text looking back that I could relate to because I am a young Hispanic man that knows of the sort of suppression of one's culture. Though back when we annotated this text i couldn't bring out the deeper meaning of certain phrases and only brought out very surface level analysis of that text. I now can confidently say that I now read between the lines to see the underlying messages writers pour into their work to call out to their audience and to invoke certain reactions. Rhetoric is one of the topics that when covered in class immediately grabbed my attention and didn’t let go, writing about the purpose of texts was a great experience as a writer giving us the skill of picking apart emotional appeal, logical appeal and even ethical appeal. These appeals are hidden in our everyday lives in the form of advertisements, speeches and even the flyers people hand out in the streets, the lesson had taught me to analyze the rhetoric or message behind texts such as speeches yet now as i grow more as a writer I find myself trying to analyze and pinpoint the rhetoric of any ad or persuasive material I see. Analyzing texts is my favorite part now because learning the purpose of something and why it was used instead of some alternative phrases. My curiosity as a writer has also grown very much over the course of this semester I now strive to learn the Who, What, Where, When, Why, and how of any piece of work I have the pleasure of reading and picking apart I even fell back in love with reading to a because a book to me is no longer just words on a page to stare emptily at but for you to instill meaning into the words found in front of you bringing to life a new meaning to reading and books as a whole that I may have never found unless my perspective changed through my growth as a writer. Throughout our semester we have had a multitude of assignments that all helped our growth yet for me none were as important to me as much as the personal experience essay was. One of my weaknesses as a writer was that I was very emotionally detached and I couldn't dig deep and bring out my feelings so going back to revise the essay I went on to bring my feelings into the piece and explain just how the experience changed me and how it made me feel. I could not have been able to comfortably write or even talk about something like this just a couple months before showing the great strides I have made to get to where im at now as a writer. One of the biggest ways I have grown from the start of the semester is acceptance and self-recognition/awareness. I would have never been able to list the many weaknesses I have as a writer before due to me not being able to properly reflect on the works I had worked on let alone reflect on myself and the problems I have as a writer that I must accept and strive to work on. I measure growth as the way a person reflects on their actions and who they are as a person and how they strive to adjust these certain aspects of themselves. On this note I would still consider myself a novice writer with much more room to grow and wells of untapped potential yet that does not mean that this growth was minimal i consider my growth over this semester one of the most important puzzle pieces of my growth as a writer and an overall better human being.