

Michael Bedon

ENG1101

December 17, 2022

Final Reflection & Portfolio

Final Reflection

English class had always seemed like an “easy”, almost boring class for me. For many of the English classes that I've taken in my life, we would only read literature pieces and give our analysis of them. Alongside this, we would also reflect upon them, just like what this piece is doing on the course. However, In the few months in this class, I learned a new meaning of analysis and reading. This course helped me become a better writer but also become a better reader. Along with improving my abilities as a writer and a reader, it also improved my qualities as a researcher and as a reviser.

The start of the semester was the beginning of the end of what I had thought English was. One of the first assignments was to read a piece titled “How to Read Like A Writer” by Mike Bunn. When I read the title, I was a little confused. Why would we need to improve our reading skills? I thought to myself. I believed the piece was just going to be about literary devices that I already knew about, like personification and imagery and ways to find them, but I was wrong. The aim of the piece was in the title, but I had been driven away from the fact that it had the word “reading” that I disregarded what it said-How to read like a writer. The piece gave ways to read not just the words in a piece but read the way they are organized. It gave ways to pick apart different organization methods that writers used so that you could use them as your own. It made you question why authors start their works as they do, like an inner dialogue line or a quote from a historical figure. It made you ask even more questions while reading, like why a writer would use the type of genre they chose. This piece opened my eyes to a form of reading that I didn't even know was possible. Because of this, I enjoyed the unit more because it was hard. It was easy to read the words on the paper, but not that which was not directly written.

Alongside improving my reading and writing skills, this course also improved my research capabilities. For our second unit, our main focus was to create an annotated bibliography based on a social issue we wanted to research. I chose human trafficking and what people it affects. I learned about peer-reviewed journal entries, a great way to find credible and revised information. Alongside learning about peer-reviewed journals, I also learned how to access these sources. Using the CUNY library website, I could find information about specific topics and even issues happening around the world with just a few clicks. I could also separate the work by genre, like journal, book, newspaper, etc.

Even though I did the unit 2 assignment I felt like I could have done a lot better, so for the final portfolio, I chose to revise it. The first thing I did was correct the format of the whole piece, which was all over the place. I had bolded some titles and others didn't, even bolding the

whole conclusion when it shouldn't have been. After this, I preceded to correct the introduction of the piece. I added more information to acknowledge and press the fact of how much an issue human trafficking has been in the history of the world. For example, one added bit was, "An issue not only in the Americas but all around the world, it had been proclaimed as a "right" and "reasonable" effort to enslave other humans". What this sentence does is not only show how long of an issue human trafficking is, but also show how it was viewed and how terrible that said view was. Along with this, I also went over information for the summaries and reflections of some of the sources. Out of all the changes I made to the information the parts where I did the most correcting were the summaries. For my first and second sources, I feel like I included too many details about the specifics of the information, so for my revision, I condensed the main points into just a few sentences. For example, the first source states, "Secondly, this article pays special attention to the human trade in the two most seriously affected Chinese provinces, namely Fujian and Yunnan. Thirdly, this article discusses the efforts by both the Chinese authorities and NGOs to tackle human trafficking and smuggling. Nevertheless, it concludes that there is still a very long way to go before China can manage these issues". I feel like this perfectly summarizes the aim of the article without getting into too many confusing details. Lastly, I checked the grammar of the piece for any spelling and punctuation mistakes I could find. With all this revision I feel like I made the piece at least better than how it was.

Overall, this course showed me English in a new light. Although the course was slightly boring at times, I walked away with methods and new information that is going to help me not only in future English classes but others as well. Practicing and building upon these newfound skills is also important, so I will try to do so at any chance I am given.

Unit 1:

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Unit 1: Education Narrative Essay

Word Count: 1000

Date

Ding! Ding! Ding! The sound of church bells rings throughout my local church. My family and I have just finished a Sunday mass, ending with the ringing sounds of the bells. Because we were in church for about 2 hours and without eating breakfast, we were all very hungry. We were in church with my 2 aunts from my dad's side, but they couldn't come with my mom, Father, sister, and I to eat because they had a brunch they had to go to for one of their

work colleagues. During this time, I was around 12 years old. We decided to go to a Colombian restaurant that is close to where we live that serves some of the best coffee I had ever had. We also decided to walk to the restaurant because it is rather close to where the church is. After around 20 minutes of walking, we arrived at the corner of the street where the restaurant is located.

As we got closer to the restaurant, I began to smell the strong, but smooth, aroma of the Colombian coffee. As a young kid I learned how to enjoy coffee from my grandfather, who I thank him for. When we entered the establishment, we were greeted by a very nice Colombian lady who seated us at one of the back tables. As we were waiting for our waiter to come and take our order we began to hear a loud ruckus coming from outside the restaurant. We all look at each other confused as to what was going on. My father and I decided to go and investigate what the noise is because we were both noisy about what was happening. My father told my sister that he was going to go with me to see what was happening. They told us to be careful and to me to not leave my father's side. As we get closer to the entrance of the restaurant the noise gets louder and with each step, I become more anxious. I begin to contemplate if I want to go anymore, fearing what it could be. I then see my father stern face, Bedon 2 realizing that when I am with him nothing bad could happen to me. Because of this we continue to the origin of the noise. We arrive at the entrance of the restaurant and suddenly we begin to see a big crowd of people formed. It was so big we had to push the door, making 3 people move out of the way. Although there was a big crowd, we were able to squeeze through all of them. When we got to the front we saw a sight that wasn't that important to me back then but later becomes an integral part of my life.

At first, I saw a middle-aged man fighting a young black teenager. I was confused- Why are they fighting? I could also make out some words that the man was saying which were unrecognizable to me. While the man was saying these words, I looked at my dad to see what he was thinking, and he had a sad, almost disgusted look on his face. What did these words mean? There were so many questions forming in my brain and no answers. The biggest question being why was nobody helping the kid? My father decides to ask a bystander that I could distinguish was Argentinian what had happened, and he told my father that apparently the teenager had run out of a clothing store with a bag filled with clothing. The older man was one of the owners that had caught up to him running. After a while someone finally came and separated the two people. They soon left the scene, albeit shouting swear words at each-other, which I did understand to be vulgar in a rude sense. My father and I then went back to our table, all the while not saying a single word to each other. When we arrived to the table we both sat down and after a few moments my mom asked what had happened. My father then began to tell them what we saw and heard, and when he approached those unfamiliar words, he lowered his voice. I then looked at my sister and mother and saw them with the sad, disappointed look in their eyes.

After we finished eating we paid for the food and left a tip, thanking the waitress once again and her apologizing for the noise. My mom and dad reassured her that it wasn't her fault and wished her a good day. While we were walking back to our house, I decided to ask my sister what the words the older Bedon 3 man was saying meant. She explained to me that they were racist words, some that meant harm to the teen. I had thought that racism was a thing of the past and that it didn't occur anymore. I understood the teen did something wrong with stealing a bag of clothing, supposedly, but that did not warrant any other type of treatment he got. It astonished me that such a belief could still be around. I also asked my sister one last important question-

why was nobody helping the kid? She then told me maybe nobody wanted to get hurt or maybe they didn't want to help the teen because he was black. I know the reason why my father couldn't help, because he feared something happening to him while I was watching, but why wasn't anybody else even trying to help? A person did come in the separate them but there was a group of people earlier before that and no one cared to come up and help. This experience taught me an important lesson that I would never forget - racism is still alive and not just a thing of the past which I had thought. It also taught me that the world you imagine is not always the world that is real.

Unit 2:

Michael Bedon

November 7, 2022

ENG1101

Word Count: 1403

U2 Reflective Annotated Bibliography

Introduction

When asked about

Human trafficking has been a recurring crime throughout humanity's long recorded history. Although slavery has ended for more than 200 years people have still found ways to exploit their fellow humans to their advantage. What group of people are affected by the terrors of human trafficking today? I became interested in this topic because recently there was a recent marathon that helped fundraise money to protect children from sexual abuse. This event took place in New York and some notable celebrities participated, like Ashton Kutcher. I expect to find information relating to what groups of people are usually targeted by human trafficking, what tactics human traffickers use to trap their victims, and what can be done to be more aware of such crimes. Although this is a very serious topic, I feel like it is important to share to bring awareness to the dangers that are in our new, ever-evolving society.

Source Entries

Chu, Cindy Yik-Yi. "Human Trafficking and Smuggling in China." *The Journal of Contemporary China*, vol. 20, no. 68, 2011, pp. 39–52., <https://doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2011.520842>.Summary

Summary

Human trafficking has been a social issue in not only the US but also in other countries like China. A report by the State Department of the United States in 2004 stated that around 800,00-900,00 people are trafficked around the world. A lot of the people that are being trafficked are coerced into their situation and are unwillingly trafficked. The crime of human trafficking connects to numerous other crimes like exploitation of labor, sexual assault, and physical torture. Most of the time kids and women are trafficked, for various reasons such as labor or exploitation. Another dark reason people are trafficked is for organs to sell on the black market. Women and children are forced into marriage and adoption in Yunnan, which also constitutes the crime of human trafficking.

Reflection

According to this article, human trafficking can lead to many different crimes. It is very sickening to read that people are stripped away of their freedom and are reverted to such a state no human should be in. Seeing that human trafficking is as large of a problem as the drug trade, with human traffickers having similar narcotic routes to smuggle people, is heartbreaking to think about. It is also unfair how the people who are exploited the most are the most vulnerable like children.

Quotation

Toward the beginning of the article, the author states, "Human trafficking and smuggling in China involve complicated routes, highly organized networks, and long-distance travel".

"How Sex Traffickers Target Our Daughters, Then Profit." YouTube, KHOU11, 19 Oct. 2017, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAqTqWAZHMo&ab_channel=KHOU11. Accessed 1 Nov. 2022.

Summary

In the US there is an underground economy that thrives off selling children for sex. Based on a study made by Urban Institute in 2017 almost a billion dollars is made in this business. A sex trafficker targets children online, often coming across as people who want to be friends through social media. The trafficker often lures the adolescent with persuasion, often drugs or alcohol, or even to help them with their dreams of being famous. These traffickers target people who are already in tough situations that are desperate for help. Traffickers keep tricking their targets until they are secluded from their families and friends. After this, they put them up for sale online. A

lot of buyers are people you wouldn't expect, with court records showing they are teachers and pastors. This form of business is illegal because it involves the use of children, who cannot consent and are underage. A lot of people would call what is becoming a worldwide problem modern-day slavery.

Reflection

Learning about how human traffickers target children online makes me more understanding of how my parents were with me being online at a young age. They would always tell me to not talk with strangers online. I didn't understand them back then but thinking back on it they were looking out for me, knowing how at that time the newest form of media to be wary of was social media. Learning that the people supporting this type of industry are the same people who are applauded in our society like priests and teachers is scary to see. You never know who somebody really is. The way that the whole video is presented, with dark images and grainy, almost rough pictures really drives home the fact of how dark the topic really is. The use of bold images in the video also enhances the importance of the topic. Overall the tone of the video is very serious, which works well.

Quotation

In the video, the narrator states, "Who are these buyers? Court records show they've been teachers, pastors, cops, and judges. They could be the guy next door."

"What Is Human Trafficking?" U.S. Department of Justice, 28 Sept. 2022, <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/what-is-human-trafficking>.

Summary

Human trafficking is a crime that involves the coercion of a person to do services that they would normally not consent to. Victims can be coerced physically or even psychologically. Victims of human trafficking don't have a single profile. Victims can be anyone of any race, national origin, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and citizenship status. Human traffickers often target marginalized and vulnerable individuals. They also target people in the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system. Trafficking victims are preyed upon because of their vulnerabilities like social standing and lack of language communication. Victims are made false promises that include but are not limited to, a good job, stable life, and love. There is also no profile for human traffickers, with them being able to be foreign or U.S citizens. A lot of the time human traffickers can be working by themselves or even with an organization. A lot of people assume human traffickers are all men it is false, with the U.S prosecuting cases against female traffickers.

Reflection

Human trafficking is something that does not only affect younger kids but people of any age. Targeting people in the welfare system is also a very dehumanizing tactic to me, putting a number above a person's head and only looking at that number when talking about them. Finding that human trafficking can happen to immigrants dreaming of a better life is hard to comprehend. It seems almost surreal to think that another human being can prey upon another using hope and dreams as leverage. Knowing human traffickers are not only males did not come as a surprise to me because you can't really put a certain identity to a perpetrator as said in the article. The article uses professional words to come across as respectful in the way they present their information, to my guess does not offend any victims of such crimes.

Quotation

In the final words of the article, the publisher states, "Traffickers can be pimps, gang members, diplomats, business owners, labor brokers, and farm, factory, and company owners".

Conclusion

Human trafficking has not only become a problem in the US but also in other countries around the world, like China. Human trafficking can affect the youth of our society through social media and the internet, hence why it is important to teach children how to use the Internet safely. Human trafficking can also impact not only children but adults, like migrant workers searching for better opportunities for themselves and their families and adults in financially tough situations. Human trafficking can affect people in difficult situations, often having traffickers target their hope and desires. What surprised me was how much of a secret this problem is in our country, with not many news sources talking about it when I was researching. Another thing that surprised me while researching was finding out that human traffickers target people in the child welfare system. This surprised me because that is a low I didn't expect anybody to go down to. The most important thing I learned while researching was people praised in our society for their social work can be the same ones who are damaging it by supporting this "industry". The people whom I think need to know about this research are the youth-the ones who are still learning about the way how life works. The way our society interacts is always evolving, so we must combat that as much as we can by teaching teens and children while they are young.

Optional Revision of Unit 2:

Michael Bedon

December 10, 2022

ENG1101

Word Count: 1479

U2 Reflective Annotated Bibliography

Introduction:

Slavery has been a recurring crime throughout humanity's long recorded history. An issue not only in the Americas but all around the world, it had been proclaimed as a "right" and "reasonable" effort to enslave other humans. Although the issue of slavery came to an end more than 200 years ago, people have still found ways to exploit their fellow humans to their advantage. This crime has taken a more modern name nowadays- human trafficking. What group of people are affected by the terrors of human trafficking today? I became interested in this topic because recently there was a marathon that helped fundraise money to protect children from sexual abuse. This event took place in New York and some notable celebrities participated, like Ashton Kutcher. I expect to find information relating to what groups of people are usually targeted by human trafficking, what tactics human traffickers use to trap their victims, and what can be done to be more aware of such crimes. Although this is a very serious topic, I feel like it is important to share to bring awareness to the dangers that are in our new, ever-evolving society.

Source Citation #1:

Chu, Cindy Yik-Yi. "Human Trafficking and Smuggling in China." *The Journal of Contemporary*

China, vol. 20, no. 68, 2011, pp. 39–52.,
<https://doi.org/10.1080/10670564.2011.520842>.Summary

Summary:

This article studies human trafficking and smuggling in China. For more than a decade, Sinologists and observers have already recognized the ever-growing phenomena of human trafficking and smuggling in China. Firstly, this article examines the causes, nature, and impact of human trafficking and smuggling. Secondly, this article pays special attention to the human trade in the two most seriously affected Chinese provinces, namely Fujian and Yunnan. Thirdly, this article discusses the efforts by both the Chinese authorities and NGOs to tackle human trafficking and smuggling. Nevertheless, it concludes that there is still a very long way to go before China can manage these issues. This article is significant because human trafficking involves the prolonged exploitation of men, women, and children, which is going to haunt the Chinese for a very long time. While Chinese societies have appeared to become modernized, human trafficking has constituted a 'contemporary form of slavery.

Reflection:

This article is a fascinating study of human trafficking and smuggling in China. It examines the causes, nature, and impact of these crimes, and focuses on the two provinces most affected by them: Fujian and Yunnan. The article also discusses the efforts made by the Chinese authorities and NGOs to tackle the problem. However, it concludes that there is still a long way to go before these issues can be effectively managed. This article is significant to me because it sheds light on the ongoing problem of human trafficking and its devastating impact on the lives of men, women, and children. It is shocking to think that in the midst of China's modernization and economic growth, human trafficking continues to thrive, constituting a "contemporary form of slavery". This article serves as a reminder of the need for continued aggression and action to combat this crime and protect its victims.

Quotation:

Toward the beginning of the article, the author states, "Human trafficking and smuggling in China involve complicated routes, highly organized networks, and long-distance travel".

Source Citation 2:

“What Is Human Trafficking?” U.S. Department of Justice, 28 Sept. 2022, <https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/what-is-human-trafficking>.

Summary:

Human trafficking, also known as trafficking in persons, is a crime that involves compelling or coercing a person to provide labor or services, or to engage in commercial sex acts. Exploitation of a minor for commercial sex is human trafficking, regardless of whether any form of force, fraud, or coercion was used. There is no single profile of a trafficking victim. Victims can be anyone, regardless of their race, gender, socioeconomic status, or other characteristics. However, traffickers often prey on vulnerable individuals, such as those in marginalized communities, homeless youth, and those with disabilities or substance abuse disorders. Victims may be deceived by false promises and forced to work under exploitative conditions. They can be found in various legal and illegal labor industries, as well as being exploited for commercial sex. The perpetrators of human trafficking also vary and can be male or female, foreign or domestic, and acting alone or as part of a criminal enterprise.

Analysis:

Human trafficking is a widespread and abhorrent crime that affects individuals from all walks of life. Despite its prevalence, many people remain unaware of the true scope and nature of this crime. The exploitation of vulnerable individuals for labor and sex is a horrific violation of human rights, and it is

essential that we take action to combat it. While there is no single profile of a trafficking victim, it is often those who are marginalized and disadvantaged who are most at risk of falling prey to traffickers. It is also important to note that traffickers can be anyone and may operate alone or as part of a larger criminal enterprise. We must work together to raise awareness of this issue and to support those who have been affected by human trafficking.

Quotation:

Towards the end of the article, the narrator states, “Traffickers can be pimps, gang members, diplomats, business owners, labor brokers, and farm, factory, and company owners”.

Source Citation 3:

“How Sex Traffickers Target Our Daughters, Then Profit.” YouTube, KHOU11, 19 Oct. 2017, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAqTqWAZHMo&ab_channel=KHOU11. Accessed 1 Nov. 2022.

Summary:

In the United States, there is a thriving underground economy that revolves around the sale of children for sex. According to a study by the Urban Institute in 2017, this business is worth almost a billion dollars. Sex traffickers often target children online, posing as friends through social media and using persuasion, drugs, alcohol, or the promise of fame to gain their trust. These traffickers often target vulnerable individuals who are already in difficult situations and desperate for help. Once the victim is isolated from their family and friends, the trafficker puts them up for sale online. The buyers of these children are often people you wouldn't expect, such as teachers and pastors. This illegal business is considered a form of modern-day slavery because it involves the exploitation of minors who cannot

consent.

Analysis:

This piece on human trafficking is significant to me because it provides an overview of this devastating crime. It highlights the fact that human trafficking can affect anyone, regardless of their background or characteristics, and that traffickers often target vulnerable individuals. The article also notes that victims of human trafficking can be found in a variety of industries and that perpetrators can be individuals or part of organized criminal enterprises. This information is important because it helps to shed light on the complex and often hidden nature of human trafficking. It also highlights the need for increased awareness and efforts to combat this crime and protect its victims. It is crucial that we work together to identify and support individuals who have been affected by human trafficking, and to hold traffickers accountable for their actions. By increasing our understanding of human trafficking, we can work to prevent it and ensure that all individuals are able to live free from exploitation.

Quotation:

Towards the end of the video, the narrator states, "Traffickers can be pimps, gang members, diplomats, business owners, labor brokers, and farm, factory, and company owners".

Conclusion:

Human trafficking has not only become an issue in the US but also in other countries around the world, like China. Human trafficking can affect the youth of our society through social media and the internet, hence why it is important to teach children how to use the Internet safely. Human trafficking can also impact not only children but adults, like migrant workers searching for better opportunities for

themselves and their families and adults in financially tough situations. Human trafficking can affect people in difficult situations, often having traffickers target their hope and desires. What surprised me while researching was how much of a secret this problem is in our country, with not many news sources talking about it when I was researching. Another thing that surprised me while researching was finding out that human traffickers target people in the child welfare system. This surprised me because that was a low I didn't believe anybody was able to go down to. The most important thing I learned while researching was people praised in our society for their social work can be, at times, the same ones who are damaging it by supporting this "industry". The people whom I think need to know about this research are the youth-the ones who are still learning about the way how life works. The way our society interacts is always evolving, so we must combat that as much as we can by teaching teens and children while they are young.