

Reflection

The genre I've chosen for my unit 3 project is a photo essay. Photo essays are great for conveying information, and illustrating what's going on. Images grasp readers' attention and make it easier to comprehend the essay. My target audience consists of politicians and landlords as these are the people who decide whether defensive/hostile architecture is implemented. If the main goal is to have my audience read my paper I believe a photo essay is the best way to attain their attention. Defensive/hostile architecture is best conveyed with pictures because it is rather difficult to visualize and describe with words. I believe that landlords and politicians don't realize the cons of this type of architecture. It seems that this architecture is not being looked into enough. In my essay, I provide examples of the architecture, its intended purpose, and what it actually achieves. I show the effects hostile architecture has on both the homeless and the general public. I strive to achieve the attention of landlords and politicians with the severity of the situation.

Some traits in my essay are as listed: awareness, information, eye-opening, sympathetic, and visualization. My essay brings awareness to the subject of hostile architecture. It makes the reader aware of the issue and what it is. It's informative as it gives the reader a general understanding of how hostile architecture is both perceived and its effect on society as well as the people in charge of the architecture. This piece is also eye-opening as it brings a new perspective on society and the architecture you see every day. It's sympathetic because it brings light on how it affects the homeless and what they have to deal with to survive, and visualization. Visualization is a key factor in my essay as there is a multitude of photos in the essay as architecture, in reality, is better portrayed than explained. It also brings a new light into something you might overlook or not see on a daily basis.

To the general public Defensive/hostile architecture is viewed as an inconvenience by many. It limits the usage of some public places. It usually prevents people from sitting, sleeping, loitering, etcetera. To the homeless, it's a fight for survival. It heavily restricts areas for the homeless to seek shelter, especially locations that provide heat and roofing like an underpass or a train grate. Recently there has been an increase in homelessness in 2022 and if hostile architecture keeps progressing at this rate soon they will have nowhere to go which could lead to death. In European countries, hostile architecture has grown more aggressive. Sprinklers are being used to deter people away and tend to give homeless people hypothermia in the winter.

My essay aims to have politicians and landlords reduce both the amount and simplify the design of this architecture. I hope to bring an understanding that we should redirect the funding of hostile/defensive architecture to homeless shelters. I believe it's unethical to design a piece of architecture with the thought of exclusion. While I agree that hostile architecture is unethical, I don't believe we should fully eliminate it. For example shop owners who want to keep the integrity of their store by not having homeless people sleeping outside of it. In some cases, I do believe defensive architecture is a necessity but when we start to put it in public spaces is where I believe it becomes hostile in most cases. The homeless feel it feels as if they are not wanted within a society as they are constantly excluded by the architecture around them. I hope to convey this point to people who read my photo essay.