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ENG1121

Unit 2 Writing Assignment

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U2 Annotated Bibliography

Introduction:

Research Question: How do detention centers affect the health of immigrant children?

The reason why I decided to choose this question is because the conditions that children are kept in is heartbreaking. Many immigrants and asylum seekers come to the U.S. for a better life yet they are denied the American dream that everyone aspires. The injustice within detention centers is unspoken and continues to stay under the radar. Ever since the pandemic, many more immigrants are dying in the hands of the government. ICE detainees have died from COVID-19. Most if not all children have limited access to medical care and are kept in overcrowded populations. It is inhumane to see young children living in these conditions. Since children are kept in overcrowded cells, infections and disease are easily spread.

I am interested because it is a very sentimental topic for me. I'm personally a first generation Mexican American. I have heard about family friends refusing to go outside in fear of being detained. Also, I've personally watched netflix series and videos on social media that show how children are mistreated. It is devastating to watch young children as young as 1-year-old crying because ICE has detained their parents. The death toll of detainees has risen since the Trump administration.

The information I expect to find is not going to be pleasant at all. I hope to find articles that talk about the effect on immigrant children being separated from their parents. Also, data statistics or articles that show and explain possible long term trauma.

Citation 1:

Chatterjee, Rhitu. “Lengthy Detention Of Migrant Children May Create Lasting Trauma, Say Researchers.” *NPR*, NPR, 23 Aug. 2019,

www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2019/08/23/753757475/lengthy-detention-of-migrant-children-may-create-lasting-trauma-say-researchers.

Summary:

According to the National Public Radio, emotional distress and post-traumatic stress disorder are two causes that lead to long trauma in immigrant children. In addition, as children get older they express suicidal thoughts and show results of depression. Some symptoms of emotional distress and PTSD are when children cry all the time or have nightmares. Many asylum seekers come to the U.S. for a better life yet they are denied the American dream that everyone aspires to. The emotional distress and PTSD experienced by the children at the detention centers are a combination of their past traumas and the trauma in the detentions.

Reflection:

I strongly agree with the text because when separation of families occurs it affects the development of the child’s brain. Children naturally tend to turn to their parents when they are feeling stressed, worried, frightened, etc. In others words, the child’s parents allow them to cope whenever they are not feeling well. However, detention centers prevent it from happening and

instead destroys the mental health of the child. Many families are detained for long periods of time and they don't see each other for a really long time.

Quote the text.

- “MacLean’s study couldn’t distinguish whether the emotional problems and the PTSD experienced by the children at the detention center were because of their past traumas or from the trauma of detention, or a combination of everything. But her findings confirm previous studies done in other countries” (paragraph 12).

What questions do you have about what the text is saying? What don't you understand?

- Can a child’s emotional problems and PTSD be a combination of their past trauma and their trauma in the detention centers? Were the studies conducted within other countries different from others? If so, why?

What other information do you need to look up to better understand this article?

- If a child has seen past traumas in their home country is it more prone for the child to experience long term trauma from being kept in detention centers? In what ways?

If you could say something to this author, what would you say?

- The article was very straightforward and easy to understand. However, I would like you to consider mentioning possible solutions that might allow immigrant children cope with emotional stress and anxiety. Overall, I found this piece of information to be very informative and useful.

What does this document tell you about your research question?

- This document elaborates and mentions some reasons of how detention centers affect the health of immigrant children. It also mentions some examples of long term trauma that affect the child such as depression. Children as young as 8 years ago think they will not have a future because of the circumstances they find themselves in.

Rhetorical factors:

How do you feel about the author's writing style?

- I enjoyed the author's writing style. The choice of words were easy to understand.

What is the author's intended audience and purpose (reason for writing)?

- The intended audience are citizens. The purpose of this writing is to persuade others about the long term effects detention centers have on children.

Is the genre effective? Does the choice of genre make sense for what the author wants to accomplish?

- Yes, the genre is effective and makes sense for what the author wants to accomplish. Chatterjee uses evidence to persuade others about what he is trying to convey. He mentions different research studies but all connected to the main idea.

How do you know this is a credible author and document?

- This is a credible author and document because many different experts gave their side of the topic. National Public Radio is a non-profit media organization and most of its member stations are owned by government entities.

Quotation:

- “A recently published study in Social Science & Medicine found that 32% of children at a detention center showed signs of emotional problems. The study involved interviews with 425 mothers of children at the detention center, who filled out a questionnaire about mental health symptoms in their kids” (paragraph 4).

Citation 2:

Fruchtnicht, Sarah. "U.S. Locking Up Immigrant Children With Adults, Some for Over a Year."

Opposing Views, 7 June 2013,

www.opposingviews.com/category/us-locking-immigrant-children-adults-some-over-yea

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Summary:

According to *Opposing Views*, immigrant children are kept in detention facilities for long periods of time. It is unlawful for children to be kept in these cells for more than a week. In addition, they don't require basic necessities to these children. In fact, some children are kept in the same cells that adults are being held, which is inappropriate. Cells are also overcrowded with people.

Reflection:

I strongly agree with this article because it is not age appropriate for young children to be with adults. Not only is it unlawful but it is against ICE policy to detain unaccompanied minors for more than 72 hours. If children are kept in the same cells with adult detainees, they will suffer from emotional distress especially if they are locked up for a long period of time. Children should not be separated from their parents and they should at least be able to stay at detention centers with their family members. They don't deserve to be locked up for days, months, and sometimes even years.

Quote the text.

- “One child detained at age 15 was held for more than a decade” (paragraph 2).

What questions do you have about what the text is saying? What don't you understand?

- What prevented the teen from being released? In what ways are children are affected by being kept in an adult detention center?

What other information do you need to look up to better understand this article?

- Was his parents also held in the detention center for a decade?

If you could say something to this author, what would you say?

- The author developed very good information that is not usually talked about. Fruchtnicht incorporated different types of information to back up her main idea.

What does this document tell you about your research question?

- This document not only expands on the damages of mental health of children in detention centers but children are also held with adults. This is not age appropriate.

Rhetorical factors:

How do you feel about the author's writing style?

- The author's writing style was very descriptive.

What is the author's intended audience and purpose (reason for writing)?

- The author's intended audience are citizens. The purpose of writing this article is to inform others about the unlawful situations that occur within detention centers.

Is the genre effective? Does the choice of genre make sense for what the author wants to accomplish?

- Yes the genre is effective because the author explains a specific subject and backs up her ideas with data. The choice of genre makes sense for the author because it gives information to citizens about this topic.

How do you know this is a credible author and document?

- This is a credible author and document because Opposing Views is a news website and has many articles from across the political spectrum.

Quotation:

“If there are 1,300 kids over a period of four years in adult detention facilities, there’s a real problem. Because that’s not what the law says. That’s not what’s supposed to be happening. As a country, we shouldn’t be detaining these kids, period, but especially not in adult facilities” (paragraph 6).

Citation 3:

Zayas, Luis H. "Transcript of 'The Psychological Impact of Child Separation at the US-Mexico Border.'" *TED*, Sept. 2019,

www.ted.com/talks/luis_h_zayas_the_psychological_impact_of_child_separation_at_the_us_mexico_border/transcript.

Summary:

According to the Ted Talk, Zayas mentions that the living conditions of young immigrants are inhumane and terrifying. The U.S. is harming children and causing long term trauma. He mentions two boys that he met at a detention center and was very touched by their stories. Families are fleeing some of the worst violence from their home countries. They've experienced being assaulted, raped, or even threatened. In addition, regions of the brain that are associated with cognition may even lead to permanent damage which can alter their future. Stress in children can lead to susceptibility to infections. In addition, illnesses such as diabetes or asthma can affect one's adulthood and shorten the lifespan. Detention facilities cause children to encounter mental health issues.

Reflection:

I strongly agree with Zayas because stress is really difficult for young children. They may have a hard coping with stress especially if their parents are not around. Therefore, since children are still growing and developing cognitive skills, their past traumas will affect them in the long run. Children have to face night terrors, depression, anxiety, dissociative identity disorder, etc.

Children deserve to be children, they should be able to enjoy their infancy like any other child and not behind bars.

Quote the text.

- “We could take old motels, old army barracks, refit them so that children and parents can live as family units in some safety and normality, where kids can run around” (Zayas, 2019).

What questions do you have about what the text is saying? What don't you understand?

- Who will cover the costs of refitting old motels?

What other information do you need to look up to better understand this article?

- Would the government be willing to pay the costs?

If you could say something to this author, what would you say?

- I really admire Zayas because he is a well spoken psychologist . He even suggests some ways of how the country can do better. He is advocating for change.

What does this document tell you about your research question?

- This document tells me that detention centers affect children's health in so many ways possible. Detention facilities harm the child's cognitive skills which can cause chronic illness and even lead to infections.

Rhetorical factors:

How do you feel about the author's writing style?

- The author's writing style was amazing. His voice was very soft but touching. He showed a lot of emotions throughout his TED talk.

What is the author's intended audience and purpose (reason for writing)?

- The author's intended audience is people of the U.S. The purpose of his writing is to convince the people that no child should be harmed in the hands of the government regardless of anyone's political party.

Is the genre effective? Does the choice of genre make sense for what the author wants to accomplish?

- Yes, the genre is effective. Zaya's voice sounds passionate when he talks about this topic. The choice of genre makes sense for Zaya to persuade others about the damages detention centers have done to children.

How do you know this is a credible author and document?

- This is a credible author and document because TED talks are a form of resource that feature videos of different types of topics. Luis H. Zayas is a social worker, psychologist, and researcher.

Quotation:

“We also know that under stress, the child's immune system is suppressed, making them susceptible to infections. Chronic illnesses, like diabetes, asthma, cardiovascular disease, will follow those children into adulthood and likely shorten their lives” (07:46).

Conclusion:

Throughout my research, I have discovered that emotional distress and post-traumatic stress disorder are just two of the few main factors that impact the health and development of children in detention facilities. Along with mood disorders such as depression and anxiety, cognitive skills are affected in the long run. As children get older they should be able to improve their ability to focus and think more critically. Cognitive skills allow children to focus, recall information, and remember long-term and short-term memory. Thus detention centers cause children to have night terrors and suicidal thoughts.

I was extremely surprised when I found an article about children being kept in the same cells as adult detainees. These children are also kept in these centers for a long time. In fact, a recent social media post mentioned how parents of 500 children that were separated at the border can't be found. These children might not ever see their parents again. The United States of American should be responsible for the reunification and pay damages to these families. These children will suffer for many years because of the trauma that they have faced.

It is important to know and inform others about the damage that detention centers have on children. Media only shows one side of the trauma such as detainees and children being sexually harassed or assaulted by border patrol agents. The media doesn't really bring up the effects of detention facilities. Many politicians don't talk about the cruelty within these detention facilities. In other words, it remains under the radar even if it is a big issue. These facilities harm children's mental health and affect their future.

I think immigrant families should know about my research in order to be able to cope with mental disorders in the future. Immigrant families don't have the resources to understand the effects of these facilities. They aren't given this information to understand why their child may act the way they do. Through my research, immigrants will be aware of how their emotional distress may affect them in the short-term and long-term. Immigrant families will have the opportunity to socialise and talk to other families outside the detention environment. More importantly, it will have a very positive effect on the emotional and social wellbeing of immigrants.