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Rhetorical analysis of Cormac McCarthy's interview.

On 5th of June in 2007 Oprah Winfrey had an interview with an American novelist Cormac McCarthy. It took place in the Santa Fe institute in New Mexico. It was his first video interview, before that he only had one interview with *New York Times* in 1992. Many people would say that interview was ineffective, because he was never engaged. Relying on these facts there is a claim: The interview is effective, because McCarthy felt comfortable during the interview, despite the fact that he did not have the experience to be interviewed. The claim is persuasive, because there are many proofs supporting this claim such as *logos*, *pathos* and *ethos*.

This video provides several *logos* proofs. The main *logos* proof is the place where the interview were held. This is the Santa Fe Institute, which is located in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Usually Winfrey does all her interviews in her studio, which is called Harpo Studios, but this time she moved to the institute where McCarthy is a trustee. Another interesting fact is that interview was in the library. He is a writer, so library might be really comfortable place for him, especially in the institute where he spent a lot of years. There comes the conclusion, that the environment where the interview was held is very comfortable for McCarthy. Another *logos* is that he is a writer, so he better than others, people who do not have so big experience as a writers, knows how to use language in an appropriative way. It means that it is easier to understand him, to understand what he wants to say and what the sub-text of his words is. His level of education and knowledge is supported by the quotations that he used, for example the quotation of William Faulkner: "I only

write when I am inspired, but I am inspired everyday”, and by his own wise expressions such as: “You always have that hope that today I am going to do something better than I have ever done”. The quotations and his great words make his speech interesting, intelligent and even motivational. His speech was not learned, he was talking from his heart, soul. He answered all the questions and he was thinking before giving an answer, it means that he cares about what he says. So the conclusion is that his speech was good enough to prove that he felt comfortable during the interview.

The *pathos* proof is also a very important part of an argument. It was really easy to notice that he was very emotional during the interview. When he was talking about his job as writer his speech was very deep and his voice was quiet and low, so emotionally it was really strong. When Winfrey was asking him about his son he was blushing. It is really hard to fake a blush, especially when McCarthy did not have an experience giving an interview. For the audience it was not hard to see that he was talking from his heart. This interview can even cause a formation, if a viewer is an emotional person. How he was acting, for example his smile, his voice, his mood all this have a huge impact on the audience, make them trust all his words. McCarthy could not be so deep and open if he did not feel comfortable.

McCarthy's credibility or *ethos* is really strong. McCarthy is one of the greatest living American authors. He has written 10 novels. Three of his books: *All the Pretty Horses*, *The Road* and *Child of God* were adapted as motion pictures. He has won U.S. National Book Award and National Book Critics Circle Award for the *All the Pretty Horses* novel. For the book *The Road* he won Pulitzer Prize and James Tait Black Memorial Prize. McCarthy has a prestige and respect. The fact that Winfrey went to Santa Fe to get an interview shows that McCarthy has an authority. On the other hand Winfrey also has a good *ethos*. She is a very famous and respectable person. A

lot of people know her name, not only in America, but all over the world. Her talk show *The Oprah Winfrey show* was the highest-rated program of its kind in history. Does not everybody is interviewed by Winfrey, especially not everybody is interviewed by Winfrey in their environment.

We see that a video has strong *logos*, *pathos* and *ethos*. He felt comfortable enough to give a good interview, because of the place where the interview was held and pathos proof, that he could not be so open and deep, if he felt uncomfortable. McCarthy has a good ethos as well as Winfrey does. His ethos made Winfrey to come to Santa Fe for this exclusive interview. His speech was clear and understandable, he used quotes and his own words can be easily used as a quote. All proofs lead to the conclusion that the claim that the interview was effective, because he felt comfortable, despite the fact that he does not have the experience to be interviewed is persuasive.