

<https://newlinesmag.com/argument/the-stories-hollywood-tells-about-america/>

Article

Actual article link:

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Anika

- What is the nature or purpose of this argument? What does it hope to achieve?

This argument aims to expose famous Hollywood movies as often connected by settings like the Fourth of July and how they reveal American culture and struggles from their eras. It conveys people often do not deal with these issues until they are an extreme threat and often, these issues stem from misunderstanding.

- Who is the audience for this argument? Who is ignored or deliberately excluded?

The audience is most likely those with an affection for blockbuster Hollywood movies with an interest in finding their deeper meanings, or how they may be connected to larger issues. The title, “The Stories Hollywood Tells About America” implies there is more to the movies than some may think, urging curious people to read the article. At the same time, all the movies mentioned are older movies, most likely to appeal to mid-aged audience who resonates with the movies described. The article excludes those with little history of American culture, such as non-US residents and are more targeted towards those who have been emersed in American culture for many years.

- Who publishes this? How does this publication typically fall on a political spectrum?
Who is the typical reader?

New Lines Magazine has published this article, and according to Mediafactcheck.com, they are a moderately left-leaning website. According to an article written by themselves, New Lines Magazine, they hoped to cater to those who are willing to read longer articles and expand their knowledge by reading about topics they may not be familiar with.

- What would meet the expectations of the reader? What would surprise them?

Readers expect the article to criticize parts of the government throughout the article, as it was recently published. Therefore, the writer knew a current major issue is the upcoming election and may be subliminally urging the reader to lean more liberally, as the website is more leftist. Readers however may be surprised that the article went into such detail about each movie instead of being a more directly argumentative article.

Wencke

- What appeals or techniques does the argument use — emotional, logical, ethical?
 - The author uses a mix of all of the above.

- Emotional - the author talks about the strong tie that american movies have on american's sense of nationalism and pride in their country. The movies that she references are all movies that portray the American dream and ideals, without actually referencing the full truth.
- Logical - the author is providing clear and strong evidence to support her argument. She is providing evidence from multiple movies that showcase the lack of truth that is told, and instead the American dream that is portrayed. This evidence allows her to support her claim that America is telling different stories through Hollywood than the actual stories of the real America.
- Ethical - she knows a lot about the movies which she is talking about, which builds credibility with the reader showing them that she knows what she is talking about. She uses famous quotes that people can remember and it allows people to relate. For example, she quotes the Sandlot, this was the "biggest pickle of their lives."
- What type of argument is it, and how does the genre affect what it can do? (You might challenge the lack of evidence in editorials, but you wouldn't make the same complaint about bumper stickers.)
 - This type of argument isn't trying to persuade anyone to do anything, but rather to inform the audience of the lack of truth in classic American films. It can inform audiences and persuade them to dig deeper into the truths behind films??**(can you guys see if you have anything to change or add to this question im not sure really what it's asking)**
- Who is making the appeal or offering the argument? What can you find out about the author? Does the argument make the writer or creator seem trustworthy or not? What could be the author's motivation (exigence) for writing?
 - The author's name is Emily Tamkin. She has work that has been published in the New York Times, The New Republic, The Washington Post, Slate, and more. She has published two books. Her argument does make her seem trustworthy because of the evidence and analysis of the evidence that she provides. Her argument isn't baseless, it holds evidence. The author's exigence could be an interest in the way that Hollywood does not portray the true american life due to her own experience. She might have an interest in these films and see a lack of actual connection to history due to her past in being a journalist and writing.
- What are the contexts — social, political, historical, cultural — for this argument? Whose interests does it serve? Who gains or loses by it?
 - Context - classic hollywood films that are still being watched today. Some of these were known world-wide and brought the illusion of the American life and that of Hollywood. Also, we are in an election year which may affect how the author conveys what they are writing.
 - Looking into the actual history behind these films and the truth that isn't being told

- It can serve anyone whos seen the films interest since then there is a larger truth behind it
- **Do you guys have anything to add to this one??**

Bella

- Can you detect the use of misinformation, disinformation, “fake” news, or outright lies? Do you know confidently who is responsible for the piece, especially online?
 - In my reading of the article, I could not identify any sort of misinformation or lies, everything seemed sound and rational. The author of the article had lots of evidence from Hollywood movies, such as specific scenes and quotes, to back up her points, and therefore I don’t think the reading was misleading at all. I could confidently say that I know who is responsible for the piece. I researched the author and her previous works, all which look legitimate, and she has multiple interviews on youtube as well as two books she has written.
- What authorities does the argument rely on or appeal to?
 - The reading seems to be more of an opinion piece and therefore the author mainly relies on their own authority, but she also gives credit to the directors of three fourth of July movies for their intentions in bringing the theme of truth to the films. The argument mainly appeals to the idea that American exceptionalism is a myth that is constantly battered in the media.
- What facts, reasoning, and evidence are used in the argument? How are they presented? How is the evidence cited?
 - The author argues that certain fourth of July movies in Hollywood portray American exceptionalism and freedom, which perpetuates the idea that such a myth exists in the country. She mentions the general American public’s ignorance towards America’s self-interest as her reasoning behind this argument, and it is mainly presented through argumentative logic. For example, the author mentions the fact that slavery and racism has been rampant in United States history at a time where many argue the nation is at its peak to highlight the myth of American exceptionalism. Since the evidence used in this article are movies, the author cites specific quotes and explains different scenes in order to back up her points
- What specific claims does the argument make? What issues are raised — or ignored or evaded?
 - The main issue raised is the failure of beautifully crafted Hollywood movies to be seen by the American public as more than just patriotic entertainment. The author’s argument claims that these fourth of July movies are meant to instill a sense of pride in viewers for the holiday, but their deeper meaning generally fails to be seen. This deeper meaning is the public and American representatives

failure to take action about serious problems in the United States and claim to work in global interest whilst only serving their own.

Alex

- Can you identify fallacies in the argument — emotional, ethical, or logical? (See Chapter 5.)
 - Ethical
 - At the end of the article, the author attacks the character of those in power for not confronting crises because they don't recognize the truth about our history, but she doesn't bring up specific policies or ways to fix the problems, and instead, she just argues they are avoiding problems.
 - Logical
 - The comparison of fictional crises to real-world problems is a little disingenuous because real-world problems are far more complex than just an alien invasion or a shark attacking people. They aren't just black and white with an obvious correct answer.
 - Emotional
 - That comparison also is an attempt to scare readers because it implies that if we don't confront our problems soon, we could have catastrophic results like they did in Independence Day, but the reality is that our problems are much less obvious and less dangerous than that.
- How is the argument organized or arranged? What media does the argument use and how effectively?
 - It is organized by using three different movies and making the same argument about each separately. Then, the author shows the similarities and differences between all three, highlighting how they all reveal pride for American culture through the use of the Fourth of July and relate to our lives where we often try to avoid crises like the characters in these movies did for many different reasons, but we must try to confront them like the characters eventually did. It finally goes on to use these movies to explain why people in power must confront the issues we face instead of pretending like they don't exist, arguing that we won't be able to improve society until we do.
 - It uses 3 movies, Jaws, The Sandlot, and Independence Day to make the argument and it's very effective because these are three completely different types of movies, yet they all lead back to the idea of people avoiding crises and not being able to succeed until they actually confront them.
- How do the language, style, and design of the argument itself work to persuade an audience? Does style overwhelm substance?

- It often uses dramatic language from the movies themselves like “fighting for our right to live,” to emphasize the importance of the argument to the audience. The argument is designed to repeatedly compare crises in movies to real-world crises which can persuade the audience to see how our lack of action will lead to problems like it did in these movies. However, this style might overwhelm it at times as it rides the line between relying too much on the analogy to movies and using actual evidence to support the argument.
- How are images and other visuals used? (Make sure you look at the original publication and not just the provided PDF.)
 - There is only one image at the very top and it shows an example of the set of Jaws but isn’t used to make an argument about anything. Although the author later uses Jaws to argue that one must confront a problem or crisis to solve it, rather than avoid it.

Ethos and Pathos Assignment

1. Once you have been assigned to a breakout room in Zoom, discuss all ways that the author establishes their ethos and all the ways they may be invoking pathos.
 - Establishes ethos by going into extreme detail about each of the movies, showing the author has a deep understanding of each movie
 - “Rewatching “The Sandlot” as an adult raises questions about what the movie might be avoiding behind the fence” quote shows the author has recently watched these movies, again showing she knows a great deal about the movies being discussed
 - In each movie, the idea is presented that a character is pushing to change something but people do not listen to them until the last moment, causing readers to feel compassion for that character - pathos - causing the audience to want to deal with such issues before they get too drastic
 - Establishes pathos at the very end when she addresses the audience directly by encouraging them to take accountability.
- The presentation is about how she connects very well to American culture and people

