Their thesis is that the American school system is underperforming because of the greater rates of child poverty compared to other wealthy nations. This can be seen when the article editorial says, “there is something that all three of these nations, and every other country that outranks the United States on the PISA test, have in common: lower rates of child poverty.”

**Rhetorical Situation**

Author: Los Angeles Times editorial board

Purpose: To inform people that child poverty is a major factor, if not the cause, of America’s lackluster school system.

Stance: Neutral

Genre: Opinion piece

Media: News website

The opinion piece has a simple design, it leads in with proof that the U.S. is underperforming then it makes a claim which it soon reinforces with evidence. Every statement made is quickly followed by proof of its existence, and at the end it acknowledges some of the weaknesses of their main piece of evidence but reassures the reader that it is still valuable information.