Trevor Coleman

Immigrants in the Workplace

In 2010 a Comedian named Steven Colbert, gave an Address to Congress. He used his time to address the situation of American farms being dependent on immigrant labor. During his speech he talks about all the factors surround these issues from how at one point in the history of America we were all immigrants that where coming here for freedom and the fact that many Americans don’t want to do the jobs that these immigrants are doing now. He then goes on to talk about how he participated in a program called “Take our Jobs” where he went and worked on a farm alongside immigrants. Colbert uses ethos and logos to prove his point that we were once all immigrants and while a lot of people are worried that immigrants are taking lots of jobs on American farms, the truth is that many Americans are not willing to do these jobs themselves.

Colbert uses logos to confront the issue of immigration and that while now we view immigrants as bad people there was one point in our countries history that everyone was immigrants and that most of our grandparents came here as immigrants. He gives an example of his grandfather when he says “my grandfather did not travel across four thousand miles of the Atlantic Ocean to see this country overrun by immigrants.” Here he uses logos by showing the hypocrisy we are using today when we thick about immigrants. He states that his grandfather did not come here to see it overrun by immigrants. Yet his grandfather along with a lot of our grandparents were coming over as immigrants.

Colbert uses ethos and logos to confront the issue of what we should do about these immigrants taking the farming jobs. He uses ethos by talking about his actual experience working alongside the migrant farmers. When talking about his experience working he states, “after working with these men and women, picking beans packing corn for hours on end, side-by-side, in the unforgiving sun, I have to say – and I do mean this sincerely – please don’t make me do this again.” Here he uses ethos to prove the point that while we are upset that these immigrants are taking the jobs, these are jobs that are very grueling and not many Americans don’t want to do these jobs.

Colbert uses his credibility as a famous comedian and some one that has done the jobs he is talking about to successfully drive home his point that we are to worried about immigrants taking these farm jobs and less worried about why no Americans want to do these jobs. He does a good job getting his point across and even offers an answer that can help us.