

Answer these questions and follow these directives to get started on your rhetorical analysis

Context:

What is the broader context of the topic in the article?

The article “The ‘Anti-Work’ Movement Is A Sign Something’s Rotten In The Workplace” by Barnaby Lashbrooke highlights a growing trend in the United States about many different and sensitive topics to Americans. While Lashbrooke wrote the article in late 2021, the issues of employment, economy, environment and government have spiraled out of control to the point where many Americans have become disillusioned with “The American Dream.” For example, prices that continue to rise for commodities and housing while wages continue to stagnate force many Americans into positions where they can no longer feed themselves or their families. Many, at this point, have chosen to go jobless than continue to work in situations where they see that the only outcome is not one conducive to their wellbeing. The article also goes into the infamous Reddit forum subgroup “Anti-Work”. The members gather under the banner of change.

Are there multiple perspectives or opinions on the subject the article presents?

In the article, Lashbrooke mentions that the “anti-work” group formed in 2013, but the influx of members began organizing more within the last few years. People's ideas vary for leaving their jobs, low pay, lousy leadership, terrible wage gaps, or simply not wanting to work.

What social or political beliefs the article reflects, and areas of uncertainty might be?

I believe the views reflected in the article can be simple - People are no longer okay with how things are running. Within socio-economic perspectives, the wage disparity between current prices throughout the United States and the employee's wages have never been higher. A cursory study of gas prices all over the United States are almost on par with the current Federal minimum wage, which is 7.25 an hour, and in some places, gas prices are higher than that. Housing prices continue to skyrocket, with reports from some people through Reddit that they pay over half their paycheck for rent. Many people have voiced that even retirement will not be able to afford people the necessities to live and will have to resort to more employment.

Many people have made the impression that the United States government will not come to their rescue. Through news reports, many people indicate that they feel that the government is taking away their rights. Also, that abuse of authority seems rampant through law enforcement and the upper layer of the government. The author conveys the attitudes of multiple people and cites their various perspectives. Many's perspectives are drawn out through social media platforms like Reddit's anti-work page and Twitter, while Lashbrooke provides various incites throughout the piece.

Tone:

What is the tone and purpose of the article or the situation under discussion?

The tone is usually created by word choice, but sentence length and rhythm can also create style, as can images. Circle adjectives and adverbs, note any pattern in sentence structure and describe any verbal images and how they reflect the topic.

The tone seems to convey a sense of alarm with the current landscape of economic and political context. The various points the author almost points at a warning that needs to change or this trend will continue and possibly descend into worse circumstances. The title is an excellent point in conveying outrage. The word “Rotten” compares current workplace trends to the anti-work movement. Another is “lamenting the status quo, it ponders how a work-free lifestyle might be achievable.” The tone is to stress the lifestyle of a perpetual work environment is exhausting, but there could be hope.

Purpose:

What is the author trying to achieve in writing the article? What are indicators of the author’s purpose?

The author attempts to shed light on a topic that many might perceive as hostile and baseless. Lashbrooke discusses issues other than what many believe are selfish and addresses other concerns like the economy. Towards the end of the article, we see Lashbrooke attempt to elicit questions from the reader like changing the work environment and what the government can do to assist employees searching for a better life.

Audience:

Who is the intended audience? How do you know?

The article is written for those who might understand that the current political and economic climate is in dire straights and is seeking change. Lashbrooke mentions workers who do not wish to continue to struggle in their day-in, day-out positions and are looking for something different.

References

Lashbrooke, B. (2021, October 25). *The 'Anti-Work' Movement Is A Sign Something's Rotten In The Workplace*. Forbes. Retrieved June 12, 2022, from <https://www.forbes.com/sites/barnabylashbrooke/2021/10/25/the-anti-work-movement-is-a-sign-somethings-rotten-in-the-workplace/?sh=686e8d5430ed>