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In Chris Hedges’ article, *The Death of the Republic*, he uses many rhetorical strategies to persuade his claim to the audience. Hedges talks about past events, the big corporations that rule our government, and the stripping of constitutional rights to support his claim that the American Republic is dead. He directs his audience to young adults with ages ranging from 20 to 30 due to their ability to act upon his claims. Hedges uses an appeal to emotion and credibility to support his claim that the American Republic is dead and it is due mostly to big business conglomerates, not president Trump.

Chris Hedges is a very credible source to be finding information on the status of the government. He is a “Pulitzer-prize winning journalist, New York Times bestselling author, professor at Princeton University, activist and ordained Presbyterian minister.” He has written over 11 books and writes a weekly column for the website *Truthdig.* He is known for his opposition of the political system and his exceptional journalism to seek the truth.

Chris Hedges bases his claim and rhetoric strategies on the assumption that his audience believes that the reason for the failure in the American Republic is because of president Trump. He then uses that to lead his article in towards the real reason as to why the Republic is dead. He also uses the assumption of what topics to include in his essay to catch the interest of his audience and to clearly convey his claim.

Hedges uses an appeal to emotion in his article to persuade his audience that the problem with the American republic is also a problem that directly affects them. He says in his article, “The pharmaceutical and insurance industries can hold sick children hostage while their parents bankrupt themselves trying to save their sons or daughters” to make the reader relate back to their own parents, and their struggle because of big corporate conglomerates. By relating the struggle of the readers’ parents to big corporate businesses, the author is persuading the reader to support his claim.

Hedge uses an appeal to emotion again to persuade his readers by relating his claim to current issues of the modern society. Current issues of society are issues about economy and police brutality. By bring up the issue that “[t]he state, rather than address the economic misery, militarizes police departments and empowers them to use lethal force against unarmed civilians” lets the reader understand exactly why the American Republic is dead. The majority of the audience finds issues regarding the economy and police brutality to be relevant. They want to talk and do something against these issues. By using their interests in the article, the author is persuading them closer to supporting his claim.

Chris Hedges also uses an appeal to credibility to support his claim. He uses the credibility of the constitution to cover his point in the article. The audience understands what the constitution represents and realizes it to be the written law to protect them against the government. By stating that the government and big businesses is cleverly maneuvering around the law to do harm, it suggests towards the reader to have distrust towards a dead republic. The reader is shown that “[t]he reality is that our telephone calls, emails, texts and financial, judicial and medical records, along with every website we visit and our physical travels, are tracked, recorded and stored in perpetuity in government computer banks” and that their protection against unreasonable search and seizures is compromised. This technique greatly helps persuade the reader to support the claim that their voice and vote doesn’t matter, leading to a realization of the American Republic being dead.

Chris Hedges uses many persuasive techniques to insist his audience to support his claim. By making assumptions on his desired audience, he can help disregard incorrect reasons towards the death of the American Republic. A combination of these assumptions and strategies are used to make the extent of the reader to find the argument convincing very intense. The reader can find the argument to be very convincing through the usage of certain rhetorical strategies placed carefully within the article. The author clearly embeds these persuasive techniques for the sole purpose of the audience agreeing with his claim.