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Words' Associations

Vargas uses effective rhetoric in his article, "Immigration Debate: The Problem with the Word *Illegal*" to persuade his audience to support his objection to the commonly used term. In his piece, he uses the rhetorical techniques of narration and logos to convey his argument more effectively. Vargas uses narration to describe the impact that the issue described has had on his own life. He recalls, "For more than a decade, I lied about my immigration status so I could get jobs, pay taxes and provide for myself and my family" (Vargas 2). He includes this narration of his life to make the issue easier to comprehend and more personal. He uses his experience to show that he was not simply an illegal immigrant but a real person with ties to the community in which he lived. His story allows the audience to understand that because he lacked documentation, he faced additional challenges, including the problem of living with his lies.

Throughout the piece, he uses logos to persuade his readers. Most compellingly, Vargas states that being in the United States without proper documentation is a civil offense, and not a criminal offense. He also cites numerous instances in which prominent political figures have used the term *illegal* to stir up negative reactions. Vargas writes, "How can using *illegal immigrant* be considered neutral, for example, when Republican strategist Frank Luntz encouraged using the term in a 2005 memo to tie undocumented people with criminality?" (Vargas 1). This question serves to support his contention that the term *illegal* is not a neutral term, and to help the audience consider the impact that the term has on people's perceptions. By using this example, he exposes the negative connotations associated with the term *illegal*. He

uses this instance to show that the association of undocumented people with criminality is an inaccuracy, and that the usage of the term invalidates and disregards the reality of the situation.