

Analysis Worksheet

Name: _____

Complete this worksheet about the article that you will analyze for your essay.

1. Write the full citation for your text

McGrory, Kathleen, et al. "A Futuristic Data Policing Program Is Harassing Pasco County Families." *Pasco's Sheriff Created a Futuristic Program to Stop Crime before It Happens. It Monitors and Harasses Families. | Investigations | Tampa Bay Times*, Tampa Bay Times, 3 Sept. 2020, projects.tampabay.com/projects/2020/investigations/police-pasco-sheriff-targeted/intelligence-led-policing/.

2. Briefly summarize the main ideas of the text

Author writes about the many times this crime detection system has failed, resulting in many bad outcomes for both the public and the police.

3. Where was this text originally published? What can you discover about this publication (political leanings, reputation, etc.)? Is the publisher credible? Why?

It was published by the Tampa Bay Times, a newspaper and website. I have not heard about this publisher very much, so I assume they are credible because their website looks very professional.

4. What can you discover about the author/speaker (political leanings, reputation, etc.)? Do they seem credible? Why?

Authors look to have credibility and have worked together in the past. Their political leanings are not obvious, but I am led to believe that at least one of the authors is left leaning.

5. Who do you think the audience for this text is? Why? (Consider the publication information as well as the topic and argument. Be as specific as you can.)

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I believe the audience that this article is intended for is people who might not currently critical for police, but I also do not think that that audience was the largest audience to see this article. People usually try to find news to reaffirm their biases.

6. When was the text published? What was going on in society at this time that might connect to this text

This story was published earlier this month (9/3). I know that most of the public and news organizations have been very critical of policing, especially this summer. This article is another criticism of police.

7. What examples of appeals do you see?
Ethos (the author's/speaker's authority or appeals to other authorities)?

The Tampa Bay Times employs many Pulitzer Prize winning journalists and because of this, has made me perceive quality reporting from this newspaper. The presence of photos of the victims while reading this story I believe help the authors credibility. This makes me think that the reporters went as far as they possibly could to investigate and interview witnesses.

Pathos (specifically what emotions does the author try to invoke)?

Authors are trying to make the reader feel bad about what this police department is doing to its citizens. They do this by citing instances where normal people have been bothered and harassed by the police.

Logos? (evidence, facts, statistics, and logical arguments)

Authors state that crime has been adversely affected by the surveillance program, saying that violent crime has increased since the program was implemented. They also state that crime in general has been on a decline in the surrounding counties without this program, thus nullifying the program's effectiveness.

Kairos? (timeliness connected to events during time of publication)

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The public, this summer in particular, has been extremely critical of law enforcement malpractice. Whether that be because of surfaced videos of bad police interactions or because of the phrase “Defund The Police”, popularized by the resurging Black Lives Matter movement (by resurging I mean from the its last peak in the summer of 2016, which was also an election year).

8. Do you see any fallacies in the text? What are they?

I was not able to find any fallacies in this text. This is written by professional journalists, working for a respected news organization. Therefore, I would hope there would be no fallacies

9. Are there any counterarguments?

No. The only thing I can see that is even related to a counterargument is that the authors describe the police report as well as the eyewitness account of some incidents. This is a way of showing both sides of a story, though only one side can be telling the truth

Is there a refutation to each counter argument? Are they effective?

Not really. In most cases, only one of the sides to a story can be true.

10. Does the text seem accurate? What other sources can you find that agree or disagree with your author's/speaker's facts?

Intelligence-led policing is a term that is easily found on the internet. It has its own section on the FBI's website along with a well-sourced Wikipedia page. This story has been reported my many other news outlets like the Daily Mail. This makes me think that this story has even more credibility than before.

11. Does the text seem objective? Why? *Note: This does not mean there is no opinion in the text - all texts for this assignment must have an opinion! Bias

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means an author misuses evidence or seems unwilling to consider other viewpoints.

This text does seem to be objective. When describing a situation, the authors tell both accounts and give direct quotes from officers, victims, and witnesses. It would be disingenuous of the authors to only ever tell one side of each encounter.

12. What is the author's/speaker's tone? How does this impact the reader/listener?

The author tries to be as objective as possible, but I still know that they do not like Sheriff Nocco and his practices

13. Are the text's sources current enough to the date of the text's publication?

This article cites recent police reports and press releases to show that this is still going on.

14. What links or images are part of the text? How do they affect the argument?

While reading this article, lots of pictures of the people from the stories the authors are telling can be seen with a short description beneath it. All the pictures used in this article were taken by a photographer employed by the newspaper. I think that this adds to the authors credibility because it shows how far the reporters went to investigate this story.

15. Overall, what do you think the author did well and not well in making the argument? Were you convinced by it? Why or why not?

I think that the author did a good job explaining the argument from what they wrote. I also think that the author proved their point after about 1000 words. If anything, its discouraging to read the article because why would someone read a 6000+ word article just to know its just more stories about the same topic/idea? If I could make a suggestion to the authors and editor of this article, I would tell them

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that I would much rather learn about this investigation through a 20+ minute, or even a multi-part YouTube video/series, akin to the style of Vice's YouTube videos.