

Article #1: Homeless in America

In the article "Homeless in America" (Nov 2016), Thomas L. Friedman argues that the driving force behind Donald Trump's presidential victory is stemming from the root cause of a metaphorical feeling of political, social, and economic "homelessness" among Americans. Friedman employs a blend of rhetorical questioning, logical appeal, and anecdotal evidence to provide backing for his claim. In the chaotic time following the recent presidential election, Friedman seeks to contribute a logical explanation for its outcome, as well as warning against the abilities of the president-elect to govern. The piece is intended for those confused by the seemingly inexplicable Trump victory, as well as those dealing with a feeling of political "homelessness" faced with a republican-majority governments

Article #2: Let's Get Putin's Attention:

In "Let's Get Putin's Attention" (Oct 2016), editorialist Thomas L. Friedman advocates for the US to put more pressure on Russia and Putin's regime, citing a lack of accountability for the quasi-dictator's aggressive actions in eastern Europe. Throughout the article, Friedman constructs a solid argument through the use of rhetorical questions, logical and emotional appeals, and metaphor. Frustrated with the lack of US response to Russia's actions, Friedman wrote the article to encourage response and change. While, being the New York Times, this piece is targeted towards middle-upper-class liberals, it is intended and nearly addressed to our political leaders

Article #3: Paris Climate Accord Is a Big, Big Deal

In "Paris Climate Accord is a Big, Big Deal" (Dec 2015), Thomas L. Friedman explains the importance of the Paris Climate Accord, an international climate deal, and how it marks a revolutionary shift in environmental policy and politics. To support his point, Friedman quotes multiple sources in the renewable energy industry, as well as emotional appeal, albeit a concerningly high amount of ad hominem attacks. Friedman's writeup aims to better educate misinformed people on the underestimated Paris Climate Accord. The article best benefits anybody who seeks to be informed with modern geopolitics, environmental and political.

Thomas L. Friedman is an editorialist who tends to specialize in writing about geopolitical events, and his writing style fully reflects the fact, able to elicit attention and respect through a conversationalist yet firm tone.

The vast majority of Friedman's articles are centered in one way or another around politics. This would be, of course, no surprise if they were localized around the current, election year. However, one is hard pressed to find even five non-political pieces by Friedman over as many years. In the most recent even vaguely technology-centric piece, "Dancing in a Hurricane," Friedman can't resist putting in a paragraph or two relating his points to the political scene

In order to better argue his generally factual points surrounding politics, he has developed a dry, yet engaging tone that manages to carry an air of authority and knowledge, yet remains personal and able to be emphasized with. In fact, this is most likely the greatest and most effective hallmark of his writing style.

Friedman's primary tool in creating such an effect is ethos, and he does so by always including an abundance of quotations and citations from credible sources — CEOs, political leaders, businessmen — but pivots with them and relays them as personal anecdotes, showing his personal expertise in matters. He frequently utilizes the same always-effective paragraph layout — a paragraph or two of anecdote, usually a conversation with an esteemed person, then a smaller paragraph tying it back into the whole.

However, to maintain the direct, personal feeling of his works, he relies more on grammatical devices. Namely, he makes extremely frequent use of the Em dash, which prompts the reader to treat them as natural pauses and breaks while reading, creating the effect of the spoken word and being talked to.

Overall, Friedman employs extensive use of lower-level grammatical elements, as well as higher-level elements such as paragraph structure and anecdotal quotations, to create an engaging tone that conveys a feeling of authority.