Chris Taylor

English 110C

Rhetorical Analysis

10/22/19

Assisted Suicide

In the article “The Terminally Ill Should Be Allowed to Die”, the author Robert Klitzman talks about assisted suicide and how it should be legal in the United States. Assisted suicide is suicide undertaken with the aid of another person such as a doctor or anesthesiologist. The opinion stated in this article was that assisted suicide is helpful to those who are suffering, in pain and are about to pass away. Klitzman also states the right to die should be a matter of personal choice. The argument in this article states that some parts of society believe it is considered suicide and should not be legal. The words the author used in this article that is considered descriptive word choices were, “aggressive chemotherapy, unrelenting nausea, terminally ill, and ultimately ineffective treatment.” Klitzman’s thesis talks about how assisted suicide should be legalized in the United States.

Robert Klitzman uses a brief introduction to the study of Critical Discourse Analysis to analyze this article, critical discourse analysis was used. Critical discourse analysis is a research method for uncovering subtle bias in an article.

The author of the article “The Terminally Ill Should Be Allowed to Die” is Robert Klitzman. Klitzman summarizes his view on “physician aid-in-dying” and how patients should have the ability to give up if they wish because these patients want to live, but realize that they are facing death and want to avoid unnecessary suffering and die with dignity. Klitzman’s target audience in this article are people with severe cancer that simply want to give up, and can’t cope with life anymore, so they do not want to live anymore. According to mailman.columbia.edu, Robert Klitzman is a psychiatrist, author of nine books, and contributes regularly to the New York Times and Cnn.com. He is a Professor of Psychiatry and the Director of the Masters of Bioethics Program at Columbia University. He also lives in New York City. He co-founded and for five years co-directed the Center for Bioethics, and for 10 years directed the Ethics and Policy Core of the HIV Center. The article was published on Cnn.com. The date the article was published was July 28, 2018.

One of the author's language choices found in the article was “Unrelenting Nausea” Nausea is a feeling of unease that frequently includes an upset stomach, dizziness, and anxiety. Nausea can have causes that aren't due to underlying disease. Examples include motion such as from a car and plane, taking pills on an empty stomach, eating too much or too little, or drinking too much alcohol. The author uses pathos because he explains how his father feels going through what he is going through. In addition to Nausea, “terminally ill” is also part of the first example of language choice in the article. Being ill means not in full health; sick. The state of being ill is very unhealthy and you go through misery. Being ill leads to a lack of prosperity, happiness, or bad health. The author also uses pathos because he explains how his father feels going through what he is going through. For instance, someone that is ill would be someone with pneumonia. The author’s descriptive word was used in a negative way to say the patient was in bad shape.

The author's second language choice found in the article was “aggressive chemotherapy”. Chemotherapy is a drug treatment that uses powerful chemicals to kill fast-growing cells in the body. Klitzman uses aggressive chemotherapy in a negative way because his dad is in bad shape. An example of pathos the author showed was with his father “But having witnessed my father's suffering close up how, when treatments become futile, the disease can become too much I developed a different perspective. With my patients, I perceived these issues from my own position as a doctor.” Klitzman uses pathos because he uses emotion when he says "If this is what life is going to be like," my father said, "I don't want it." Klitzman used that word to say “I was astonished. To me, life seemed precious. It still does.” Another example of pathos in the story was “Many doctors have trouble addressing this issue, often finding it difficult to speak of death as part of life. We generally see death as a failure, not part of an ongoing process or trajectory.” The second example of language choice found in the article was “unrelenting nausea”. Nausea is a feeling of unease that frequently includes an upset stomach, dizziness, and anxiety. Klitzman used this example to describe the patient’s health that’s not being relieved by the medication. In the article, Klizman was against the idea of “physician aid-in-dying” because people didn’t understand the true meaning of making that huge decision, his having to help patients end their lives makes made him feel uncomfortable. But Klitzman seeing his father suffering up close made him develop a new perspective on “physician aid-in-dying”

In conclusion, the author Klitzman does not like the fact that patients do not have the option to perform “physician aid-in-dying.” In this article, Klitzman uses pathos with all of his language choices because he uses emotion behind what he is saying, and Klitzman believes assisted suicide should be legal. His language choices go with his opinion on physician aid-in-dying because seeing his dad in pain and not being able to help him made him think about other families and their situations. Klitzman wants the audience to believe he is right because of the proof of what his father went through.

Works cited

Klitzman, Robert. “The Terminally Ill Should Be Allowed to Die.” CNN, Cable News Network, 28 July 2018,

https://www.cnn.com/2018/07/28/opinions/physician-assisted-suicide-opinion-klitzman/index.html

Robert Klitzman

https://www.mailman.columbia.edu/people/our-faculty/rlk2

Reflection Paragraph

I feel like my strengths in this essay were finding a good article to write about and finding bias words to write my paper. One of the most challenging parts of this essay was just understanding the whole concept of my article and analyzing it. Another problem I had was getting to the word count because I felt like I said everything thing I had to in my paper. I also had trouble figuring out how the write the paper the correct way. For example, I just learned how to properly set up the rhetorical analysis and write it in the conference meeting. One of the most important things I learned was how to space the paragraphs and how to cite the sources properly. Even though I feel like I need to elaborate more on my paper I’m just not sure what to say. Once I get better at elaborating more and fulfilling the word count my papers will be much better.