Student

English 1010 CE

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Impactful Genres of Immigration

Fact vs. myth. One of the hardest things to decipher in a world of an internet packed with many different statements which are always countered with an opposite “fact” somewhere else. So how do we as society know which is a fact and which is a myth? Especially with that which concerns immigration. A lot of people in America, no matter how high their standing is, have very different opinions on immigration, immigration laws, and restrictions into our country. Some people would say that it is bad to have laws and restrictions on immigrants, so in turn they find a statement and make it look like a fact. On the contrary, the people who say that laws and restrictions on immigrants is very much needed will find an opposite statement and sugar coat it to make it look like a fact. *Very controversial.*

Myths have risen from the new immigrant issue in the United States, many which have been fact checked. In the peer reviewed article written by William P. Hoar called "There's More to the Immigration Campaign Than a Border War," Hoar discusses many of the opinions of people relating to this topic and whether or not they are using facts or if it is just another myth to sway people one way or the other.

A peer reviewed article is written professionally by someone who is an expert of the topic because of all the researching they’ve done. This is not an article soli based on one person’s opinions taken from diluted articles online of other people’s opinions on the topic. Peer reviewed articles are trustworthy because they are reviewed and confirmed by other people who would be considered “experts” on this topic.

To begin with, Hoar drops us into the simple facts and statistics about immigrants in America that anyone can access easily (if one bothers to look). He tells how many immigrants are here, how that compares to other countries, and states that America has the more immigrants than any other country in the world. He goes on and says that a lot of people think building a wall will fix all of America’s problems. He shoots this down saying that most immigrants can find a way into this country, mainly by overstaying their visas, *not* by border crossing into the country itself.

The strategy of being very blunt and clear about what Hoar is trying to say is used here, and helps with the author’s argument. He backs this up with studies, numbers, and years when this fact was confirmed, making the readers have to believe what he says. He doesn’t beat around the bush, but rather delivers his fact checks in a very clear and easy way to understand. The clarity used by the author adds to credibility. One can tell how well he knows this topic simply because he doesn’t talk about fluff to “fill time and space.”

He also tells stories of different immigrants who have come to America and have in some way “ruined” America. He doesn’t flat out say, “immigrants are bad to have in America,” (because that would be an opinion) but instead he tells these stories in hope that he influences his writers to form an opinion that would be close to his. However, the main problem with peer reviewed papers as a genre is they are not something that everyone reads on their spare time. The majority of people get most of their information from videos and memes that they come across online scrolling through social media.

Comparatively, we jump to a different genre. In a clip from the episode called “Adam Ruins Immigration” from the TV series called *Adam Ruins Everything,* Adam Conover, a TV comedian, discusses “why a wall won’t stop immigration” (Conover). In this, he reveals many statements in a matter-of-fact way in which is very effective towards said audience.

The clip starts with a grandmother and granddaughter who, ironically, appear to be Mexican immigrants. The audience is to assume that they are legal, since the daughter has the opinion that illegal immigrants are a major problem in America.

The choice of using a Mexican grandma and granddaughter, though seems simple, was not a mistake made by Conover. If he was trying to get his information out to many different audiences, he needed to appeal to more than just the average white American people out there that are against immigration. Using a Mexican girl whose grandmother must have immigrated here a long time ago makes the whole message more ironic and relatable to a wider variety of people. What this detail also does is soften the message more than it would if Conover used a white male American teenager, closing the opinionated window to those who are sick of the stereotypes of this topic.

The style that Conover uses in describing this topic is a spill of facts with an abundance of humor on the side, something that is unique to a whole TV series with one single person’s biases dedicated to cracking controversial topics. What he does is give a few facts one after another that relate to each other, and then pauses as a clip plays that shows the literal and abrupt conclusion of the fact in a way that is light and humorous.

This style is effective because it triggers a “oh my goodness you’re so right please tell me more” within the audiences’ minds. The little clips keep the audience engaged instead of bored out of their minds. It’s his own personal blog. He decides what gets to be put into it, and if he finds a fact that he doesn’t necessarily like, he doesn’t have to talk about it. He takes little facts and breaks them down into pieces. Breaking down facts helps the audience understand where he is coming from, giving himself and the sugarcoated opinions that he is sharing more credible and understandable.

Lastly, this whole clip is him and a female Mexican teenager arguing about why building a wall will or will not solve anything. He gives his facts, she rebuts it, and he rebuts her rebuttal with more facts. What this did was finally convince her that he was right all along. Now, this is all scripted, correct? Which means that a conversation that he would have in a day to day conversation may not go as the script. Well, some people may overlook this and look at it as if this girl actually has the opposite opinions that he does. When she agrees with him, Conover is foreshadowing how he wants *his* audience to come to their own conclusion.

Moving on, what happens when you take all of these facts with opinionated voice and throw the facts out the window? Well, this is how you get memes ladies and gentlemen.

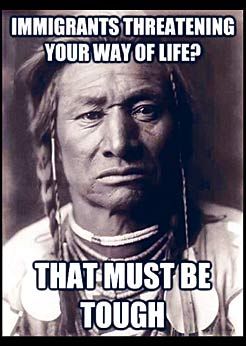
As with everything else, many people have quite blunt opinions on the immigration situation in America. Some of these opinions, however, are expressed more boldly and bluntly. If used the right way, just a few small words and a picture will go a long way when trying to express opinions. How can this be? Professors and scholars spend hours coming up with a glamorous paper that expresses their opinion in the exact way they want it to. Facts based on facts backed up by facts carefully laid out in a beautiful format making the paper credible.

However, memes can quickly and easily give the audience an opinion completely contrary to their own and make them believe it. They give the audience reason to believe that the author of the memes knows what they are talking about instead of realizing that these memes are completely and entirely opinion based. Why? Because they make the audience laugh.

Humor. It is the best medicine. It is the one thing that breaks tension in an awkward environment without having to say too much. If something is funny, the laughter that came from that meme assist in making the reader believe that what they read was a complete fact. We live in a world of first impressions, and if the first impression of a meme can be positive feedback, more people are likely to listen to the message, no matter what the message may be.



Pictures are key. In some of the memes based on immigration, there is a picture of a Native American. This reminds the reader that the first Americans were in fact, the Natives that lived here before the people of Europe started to invade their country. Realization. Realization dawns over the reader that there were people before their own people were here. Guilt. Guilt overwhelms them as they see the picture of a Native American attached with some snarky comment that they, the immigrants from hundreds of years ago, don’t in fact deserve to be there because of the simple fact that they were once also immigrants. Do they have justified feelings of wanted people to leave “their America?”



Honesty. A lot of the time memes point out the obvious in a way that is straight to the point with no sugar coated layers. Because only a few words can be fit on one picture, there is no prep for the message that the author wants to get across. They have to be blunt and come right out and say it. The opinion of a lot of different people on immigration is that the Immigration Policy supporters don’t look at the literal meaning of what they are saying. “They are stealing our jobs.” Oh, here’s a meme that shows that you don’t really even want the immigrants’ jobs, do you? “Building a wall will completely stop immigration from happening.” But will it really though? “Well, Mexico is going to pay for this wall that we build.” Hmm, but who is actually going to pay for it? All of these memes are put together to contradict the opinions of all these people. They quite literally take an opinion of someone and then make a meme that completely goes against what their argument said. Instead, it gives new insight to “how things really are.” All of this is done with a few simple words pasted on a picture. Magic.



Every single one of these genres affect the way that people perceive and form opinions on immigration. Is it a good or a bad thing? Well, it’s a lot more complicated than that. If one were just to look at peer reviewed essays, they would definitely get all the facts that were fact checked and be able to make an opinion based on the articles that they read. However, as mentioned before, people don’t spend time reading those. The place where the majority of people with access to internet spend their time is social media such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Social media is jam packed with videos, pictures, and memes. Videos and memes such as the ones above. Though one would get quite a bit of information on the subject of immigration by having these genres, they wouldn’t get the whole picture. Videos and memes such as these can, in a sense, hypnotize you into forming opinions on immigration based on other people’s opinions, not pure facts.

Even though Conover’s video has a lot of facts in it that support the peer reviewed essay, the way that he presents it affects the overall feeling of the audience. He can sway people one way or the other because the genre and advantages of the genre he uses. In a peer reviewed article, though having some voice, it doesn’t have quite as much as a video can have. Conover has all of these things used to his advantages.

Now memes. Memes are used by very opinionated people who, for the most part, don’t really care about the facts of a subject. They form their opinions based on opinions of other people, or small statements they find online. Their purpose is not to research all the little details on one subject, that’s the author of a peer reviewed essay job. They’re job is to take one little thing about the topic of immigration and make it completely one sided in a way that will still get people to agree with them. It’s a new type of genre, and it is absolutely genius. However, it can be dangerous to an audience who are naïve and uneducated.

Each of these genres have a very different effect on how one person can perceive immigration as either a good or a bad thing. All of these genres put together describe immigration. If one is to look at these three genres and maybe even more, they would be able to form a well-supported opinion.

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