America? No Longer the Land of the Free

For centuries America was known as the “Land of the Free”, however, the recent presidential election proved to us that this well known claim is false. Donald Trump, America’s newest president, proved to us that he was closed-minded and prejudiced. Trump proposed that all immigrants should be banned from entering the United States.

Immigrants have been fighting for equal rights for several decades. Throughout this essay, I will be analyzing two articles on this topic. The first article is from Snopes.com and contains false information about former president Obama and his “ban on Immigrants.” The second is a CNN article that goes into details about how Trump is trying to put a travel ban into action. Each article shows the values and differences between both politicians.

To begin, the Snopes article’s thesis is “President Obama banned immigration from Iraq for six months in 2011, but the media buried the story.” (LaCapria) However, the article proves to us that this is false information by going into detail about how Obama’s words were mixed up by Donald Trump. Trump stated “My policy is similar to what President Obama did in 2011, when he banned visas for refugees from Iraq for six months.” However, in 2011 there was no ban there was only a “slow down” on visas for Iraqis. (LaCapria) This miscommunication of the
2011 incident and Trump’s current wishes brought attention to the false story about Obama
banning refugees from Iraq.

The CNN article goes into detail about how Donald Trump is trying to ban travel into the
the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries. The article states, “The executive order
bars citizens of seven Muslim-majority countries-- Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and
Yemen-- from entering the US for 90 days, bans all refugees for 120 days and indefinitely halts
refugees from Syria.”(McKirdy) Donald Trump’s proposal caused riots to break out and chaos
across the country. This ban that Trump is trying to pass ties back to the fake news article about
former President Obama because both of the articles discuss a travel ban against Muslim
refugees. Furthermore, this snopes article was created to justify Trump’s actions. However, the
snopes article’s attempt failed because America was still outraged by Trump’s attempts.

After the background information on the two articles I will now like to elaborate on their
theses. Beginning with the Snopes article, the overall claim is that former President Obama
passed a similar executive order as Trump and was protected by the media, so that the public
would be unaware of his executive decisions. The CNN article’s overall thesis is that Trump’s
executive order is real and caused a political uproar within the public.

In formal writings authors use warrants to support their claims. Warrants are unstated
words that are written throughout a paper exposing the author’s values. For example, throughout
the Snopes article the author tried her best to reveal the truth about what happened in 2011 with
former President Obama. Therefore, readers can draw the conclusion that the author values
honesty. In the CNN article the author focuses on Trump’s perspective of his executive order.
This shows that this author also values the truth and honesty because he was determined to tell
the public the truth. The warrants of these articles are very similar, even though, one of the articles are fake.

Formal writings have other aspects that can help, harm and limit the thesis. These are called qualifiers. Between these two articles, I could not locate any qualifiers in the two articles. As I previously mentioned formal writing have several aspects that play major parts in making the claim of the papers stronger. Another tool is backing, backing is statements or evidence that supports the warrants. An example of backing within these two articles could be when the author of the snopes article presents the false information and clarifies it with facts from real news articles. These Methods are used to make the writer's claims as strong as possible.

In politics there are always debates. The authors of these two articles are well aware of this and prepared for it. In the Snopes, article the author knew that people would argue that her information is not credible because of the website her article was on, so she decided to use information from well known news articles. This makes her writing stronger and a lot more credible. Approaching an alternate opinion before it is presented is called preparing a rebuttal. This is another aspect that makes the papers stronger.

The Toulmin analysis method is commonly used throughout formal writings. The analysis consists of the aspects previously stated: the thesis, the support, the warrants, the backing, the qualifiers and the rebuttal this method is successful in making a person’s paper stronger; however, when an author wants to appeal to its readers emotions, ethics and mind. The author uses the Rhetorical Triangle. The triangle consists of three components: pathos (emotions), ethos (morals), and logos (logics). These two articles at hand questions a person’s ethics. For example, both articles focuses on how different politicians value different things. The
Snopes article stated that supporters of Trump’s ban claimed that former President Obama didn’t receive any protest when he announced the ban in 2011. This single quote proved that many people still do not see all people as equal and this makes readers question the supporters’ personal morals.

Also, the Snopes Article included many statistics about how the slowdown of 2011 this appeals to the reader’s logics. An example of this from the article is, “5,000 visas have been set aside each year since 2008 to expedite those Iraqis entry into the United States.” (McKirdy) Logics appeals to the reader’s mind this is usually accomplished by using quotes, data, pictures, etc. The last factor of the rhetorical triangle is called pathos and pathos is the appeals to the readers’ emotions. For instance, the details both articles provided about Muslim citizens being treated unfairly taps into many people’s emotions. The CNN article uses quotes from citizens who actually had to deal with the process of the ban. Nazanin Zinouri, a citizen of Tehran, told CNN “I can’t believe this actually happened. I didn’t see this coming anytime soon.” Zinouri seemed to be upset and surprised that the U.S. would let things go this far with a ban like this. This shows us that our “President” does not believe in everything being equal.

These two articles were directly correlated. However, the article about former President Obama stemmed from accusations by Trump and his supporters. The Snopes article proves to readers how easy it is for rumors to spread when information is misused. However, with the Snopes article author valuing truth we were able to get the real story. Donald Trump’s executive order proves to the people of the United States that no matter how hard we’ve been fighting for equality it has yet to be accomplished. America is no longer the land of the free.