

Starlyn Sosa

Prof. Hunter

English 21003

26 February 2020

Rhetorical Analysis Draft

“I never wanted to be the sort of person who got angry about noise. But there is something about noise that turns you into that person!”-Richard Godwin. As society grows and advances it seems that silence has become a novelty. Noise can be found everywhere, especially in urban settings. Many are unaware that noise; which is defined as unwanted and bothersome sound, is classified as a pollutant. Individuals who live or reside near places of high noise pollution are likely to suffer detrimental effects to their health. One particular study has “linked noise pollution from road traffic to instances of type 2 diabetes.” In his paper, “Sonic doom: how noise pollution kills thousands each year” Richard Godwin a freelance journalist for “The Guardian” successfully educates the audience about the side effects of noise pollution mainly through anecdotal evidence as well as substantial use of pathos and logos and also personal experiences.

The purpose of this article is to inform readers about the negative effects of noise pollution. This is evident just by reading the title, “Sonic doom: how pollution kills thousands each year”. Evidently, throughout the article images are used depicting situations of high amounts of noise pollution. For example, one particular image depicts a row of townhouses with an airplane flying above it. Another shows three construction workers drilling the concrete pavement using jackhammers. Images are a great tool for conveying a message, in this case,

noise pollution, at an audience without them reading through the text. Additionally, images are essentially used to grab a reader's attention, especially in our very visual culture.

In the article, Godwin sets the stage with a short personal story of a "battle" he had with noise. "Shortly after I sat down to read up on the auditory and non-auditory effects of noise on health in the Lancet, the drilling began – an angry, jagged, intermittent frenzy of metal on plaster." The story progresses with him going to a cafe and then switching over to a library after not being able to bear a "three-year-old running around screaming". At the library, still not content with the lack of silence he expresses how he "Remember when the thing about libraries was that you had to zip it? Now they play host to an everlasting Hop Little Bunnies music session." Godwin uses words like "angry", "bear" and "grumpification" to convey the emotion of irritation caused by excessive noise. The addition of this short story adds credibility as it gives readers confirmation of Godwin's own experience with noise pollution and contains ethos and pathos appeal.

Furthermore, although Richard Godwin is a "freelance journalist", it's important to note that this does not belie his credibility when it comes to the topic of noise pollution. Throughout the majority of the article, Godwin uses substantial logos appeals. Stating a plethora of scientific studies and research papers, " He recently analyzed the health data of 356,000 people in Britain and Norway and found that long-term exposure to traffic noise affects our blood biochemistry, over and above the effects of exhaust fumes.", "Noise and air pollution usually co-exist, but we can adjust our statistical model to factor out the air pollution." "Noise seems to have its effect on the cardiovascular system", "Another study, from Barts and the London School of Medicine", "The World Health Organization has calculated that at least 1m healthy life-years are lost every year in western European countries because of environmental noise, with cardiovascular disease

contributing to the vast majority of these deaths, especially high blood pressure”, and “US studies have shown that”. The ample number of studies referenced through out the article appeals to readers intellect and demonstrates the real negative effects of noise pollution on health backed by scientific research, data, and studies.

This article was published digitally on “The Guardian” website a British daily newspaper, thus the medium is a website. The significance of using an online article is that its easily accessible, readers can share this article through social media or whichever platform they desire. Online articles also have the benefit to reach a diverse audience young and old. Compared to traditional newspapers in which its main audience is an older demographic.

For this article, there doesn't seem to be a specific intended audience. We can assume that the targeted audience is individuals who experienced noise pollution or those who are interested in learning about the topic. Because this article is online, we can also infer that only people who have some sort of interest in noise pollution clicked on this article out of all the many diverse articles on this website. In all, I can't say that the author has a specific audience in mind when he wrote this paper because the medium is an electronic article and most electronic articles from publishing websites are subscription-based. In this case, the website “The Guardian” no subscription is required to access this article or any of their articles ranging from different subjects, thus for me, the intended audience is anyone who has access to the internet.

To continue, this article is written in the expository genre. In the expository genre, writing tends to explain, illustrate, clarify something in a way that it becomes clear for readers. The main point of this article is meant to inform readers about noise pollution and the “well-established effects on multiple aspects of physical and mental health, from cardiovascular disease to depression”. In the expository genre, information is organized and structured. In the

article, Godwin starts with a short story about his own experience with noise pollution, then he goes on about the effect of noise pollution on cardiovascular health, then he talks about the link between noise exposure with cognitive impairment and behavioral issues, then he goes on about the many legal distinctions on noise pollution and what individuals can legally do to deal with excessive noise, he then goes on by adding anecdotes from people who have experienced noise pollution firsthand, lastly he explains how economically disadvantaged people deal with noise pollution more.

Overall, Godwin successfully makes a paper on how noise pollution affects people's health. He uses anecdotes from individuals who had firsthand experiences with noise excessiveness and pollution plus his own experiences. He also includes multiple studies to back up his narrative. The addition of multiple appeals to logos, ethos, and pathos adds to making this article credible and informative. All of this makes this paper effective in informing readers about noise pollution.

