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Rationale for Suicide Awareness in College Students

<https://wix.to/YEAyBJc>

1. **Pathos:** Pathos is one of the three Artistic appeals in which applies to one’s emotion.Pathos was used in our project mainly throughout our video where we interviewed several students around campus as well as a faculty member in the social work department. Most of the questions were targeting one’s personal experience with suicide as well as opinionated question where they could give their input on suicide awareness among campus and how awareness could be improved. It appealed to the emotions of sadness, sympathy, hope, and in some points happiness. Some of the interviewees appealed to sadness and sympathy by making the audience aware that suicide is real by giving details on either their personal experience or someone they witness go through it. Those stories make people feel bad and have sympathy for others by making people aware of what it’s like to go through a suicidal phase and all that came with it. Others feel bad that people look as suicide as they’re only option because they feel so alone in the world. There is also hope because learning from others that they have overcome a suicidal phase and beat suicide in the end lets people know that they aren’t alone and that there’s hope for others. By hearing others speak on their personal experience or what they’ve witnessed shows that no one is really alone and there’s always people out there willing to help those who have gone through what they might be going through in the present time. Happiness is another emotion that is present during the video because after watching the video, viewers can feel happy for the survivors. They may not of gotten through their suicidal experience easy, but they got through it and it resulted in a happy ending. They are alive and they made it through a hard time period which is all that really matters in the long run. People can see it as it makes them stronger and builds their self-esteem that they have a purpose in life and they can get through anything life throws at them.

An additional appeal to emotions that are displayed in the website is two tragic

suicides that were successfully completed at different universities. One article that is summarized in the website discusses an event where a depressed and suicidal student reaches out multiple times to the counselors and staff members of his university and the college failed to take the appropriate action to essentially save this young freshman student. The other suicide case is similar where the college did not focus enough effort or attention to a student who was struggling for help.

1. **Logos:** Another word for logos is logic; logos is another artistic appeal that is related to the logic and the facts of what is presented. Logos is utilized in the statistics and facts included about the rates and prevelance suicide. The Facts and Resources page of the website details the prevelance of suicide among college students and ranks it among the top causes of death for this age group. Logos is also seen in the graph included that represents the percentage of people age 18-25 who attempted suicide in the U.S. in 2017. That percentage comes out to about 63% (1.9/3) of people in that age bracket. Further facts are provided about the risk factors and warning signs to look for in an individual who may be suspected of attempting suicide or who may be suffering from a mental illness. Risk factors include points like major depression and traumatic or stressful life events. The warning signs include severe mood swings, talking or joking about suicide, poor academic performance, sudden happy or calmer state, and giving away posessions.
2. **Ethos:** The final appeal, ethos, appeals to one’s credibility and why they have the authority and reliability of what they have said. It gives the audience a reason to trust them. The opinion of psychiatrist Sumit Anand, MD, from Fairfax, Virginia provides ethos to the project because he is a trusted individual in this field who has expertise and knowledge about suicide. He has extensive experience in treating psychiatric disorders and suicide in individuals. His opinion adds credibility to the information and arguments provided in the project.

In our video, we used three interviewees which were the most reliable sources out of all the individuals who had volunteered to be interviewed. The first one was an Anna Keating, a sophomore at Longwood, who has a disability called behavioral disturbance who has participated in CAPS through the Office of Disability Resources. She was reliable because she has first hand experience with CAPs compared to someone who just knows of CAPS and the services they provide. She also can be more trustworthy because she has suffered through suicide much of her life, so she knows what it is like and the help that is neccessary for those individuals. Our second interviewee, Casper Strum, a junior at Longwood, was credible because he is at psychology major who does a lot of work with suicide and works closely with the Virginia Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. He not only has seen a lot of suicidal individuals, but also has been hospitalized due to his own experience in which he learned a lot from and could give great advice to those who are considering suicide and self harm. The last interviewee, Teressa Reynolds, Social Work Director of Field at Longwood, was credibile due to her being in a profession that deals a lot with suicide. She also has a lot of education on suicide and preventative strategies due to her educational experience by getting her degree in social work. She gave her professional advice on how suicide awareness can be improved and how suicide can be preventing from giving her input on where it needed to start at and then leading into improvements that needed to be implemented in the resources that we already have.

1. **Logical Fallacies:** Logical fallacies henders an argument by making it less credible. Such as Myth number 3 that states, “People who talk about suicide never commit it” (ATI Student). This is an example of the logical fallacy called unqualified generalization or Dicto Simpliciter that uses words like “never” “always” or “all” to justify an argument. However, complex situations like suicide is not black-and-white. Myth 1 states “There is no way to help someone who really wants to kill themselves” (ATI Student, 2017) and this is an example of another logical fallacy, Hasty Generalization. In which a statement is being assumed from limited cases. There have been many times where a person was suicidal and received treatment and was saved from the assistance of others.