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Rhetorical Analysis

Rhetorical Analysis of SELC and the Atlantic Coast Pipeline

SELC, Southern Environmental Law Center, wrote an article titled “Risky and Unnecessary Natural Gas Pipeline Threaten Our Region”, which is focuses on the Atlantic Coast Pipeline that will be approximately 550 miles long and run through many counties. From law attorneys to concerned citizens of the community, the Atlantic Coast Pipeline threatens the region. “Risky and Unnecessary Natural Gas Pipelines Threaten Our Region” displays a magnitude of credibility and persuasive points to try and inform communities of the dangers that are certain to follow the pipeline, and the communities need for action to try and repeal the pipeline from running through the town. This article begins with evidence of the pipeline disrupting the environment and where it will be disruptive the most, then is goes into the current objectives and affiliations the SELC, Southern Environmental Law Center, are currently undertaking to challenge the pipeline. While the credibility and emotional side is strong, the logos of why the pipeline is “risky and unnecessary” is the dominant resource. In this essay I will analyze the uses of ethos, logos, pathos, and the use of logical fallacies.

**Methods**

In this paper I will be analyzing the use of ethos, logos, pathos, and some common fallacies that were used in the article. Ethos is an appeal to the audience to try and convince them that the author is credible in the subject (The Arguments Best Friend). Examples of ethos would include being an expert in a certain area or mentioning that the author has many years of experience as well as writing style (The Arguments Best Friend). Logos is an appeal that uses the audience’s knowledge and the authors evidence to support an argument (The Arguments Best Friend). Examples of logos can include facts, examples, authority, historical or personal examples (The Arguments Best Friend). Pathos is the appeal of emotion, which is best used while using logos or ethos (The Arguments Best Friend).

**Analysis**

On the homepage of Southern Environmental Law Center, it states that “SELC is the largest environmental organization in the Southwest, with 80 attorneys working”. By doing this, SELC is pulling from their credibility of their attorneys and mentioning that they are the largest environmental organization in the Southeast. They also include pictures of their offices, which prove that they are a big company that is very successful in what they do.

As the beginning of the article, it starts with an image of the pipeline being constructed, with heavy environmental destruction through an agriculture field or pasture. The picture, to new comers of this topic, is applied to try and grab the attention and show them that this is very destructive to the environment. The very next thing on the article is updated news, which is updated fairly recent with court cases, or laws that have been passed dealing with the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.

SELC shows how the pipeline will destroy the environment and that it is not necessary or needed to run this natural gas pipeline. “the bottom line is that it is not necessary to meet the region’s demand for natural gas”. The article then goes on to discuss how Dominion Energy and Duke Energy are pushing the pipeline so hard, even though it does not have support from the market to support it. Also, SELC explains how the ACP will be passed down to their customers to pay for it, Here, they missed a very strong supporting detail of how this actually plays into the customers having to pay for the pipeline. Areas that it will run through will have to pay to tap into the line to access the natural gas and make an economic saving (Gee 2019).

SELC incudes how the pipeline will disrupt everyday life for the communities and homeowners that are relatively close to the construction. The effects of the pipeline will be felt directly from homeowners and landowners for the first few years, however, there is a after plan to manage and restore the destruction to regular standards that will leave the pipeline in a natural standard (Dominion 2014). However, there is an argument that in the recent years the need for natural gas has declined and that there is no need for the pipeline just due to necessity being low.

**Ethos**

In this article, Ethos is established and used very strongly. “SELC and its partners have sued five of those agencies in the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit: The Federal Energy Regulatory Commis­sion, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Virginia Department of Envi­ronmental Quality”. This statement shows that they have tackled large environmental problems before at the federal level. They also mention that “At the federal level SELC is challenging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on its decision to permit this project”. All of these statements emphasize that they are very experienced with law and have experts on their side.

Also, SELC mentions how big their business is by stating that they are a Member of the Allegheny-Blue-Ridge Alliance, and that they have a coalition of 43 organizations across Virginia and West Virginia. This just so happens to be where the pipeline will be ran through, and so by doing this, it allows the audience to know that this is happening right around some of SELC’s offices.

Works Cited

Gee, Kathy. 2019. ENSC 401. Environmental Planning and Management. Lecture.

*Resource Report 1 General Project Description.* Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC. Dominion Transmission, INC. Supply Header Project. Natural Resource Group. December 2014.

*The Argument's Best Friends: Ethos, Logos, & Pathos*, https://www.mesacc.edu/~paoih30491/ArgumentsBestFriends.html.

**Possible headings for Pathos, Logos, Ethos**

**1 heading for fallacies**