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Individual and Society FIQWS HA12

29 September 2022

### Summary and Responsive Paper

The planet Earth is composed of bodies of water and land that have gone through several changes with the involvement of humanity in terms of the state of the landscape being controlled by human beings. During the existence of humanity, there has been a chain of events among people to colonize different pieces of land by taking over the territory of those who once ruled that land and introducing new technological and industrial advances which have helped the growth of humanity resulting in the formation of the world as it is now. This chain of advancements led to a mindset planted in the people in forming part of the continuation of industrialization by having constantly construct new structures on top of the buried wetlands and bodies of water. It can be said that these tall structures being built may appear beautiful or spectacular, but does humanity truly benefit from them? This is a sign of danger that must not be ignored, or else humanity will face environmental issues on a more daily basis which can be prevented with the help of acknowledging our environmental background. In a series of texts, a conversation on the importance of one's ability to recognize their environmental origins to save the next generation's confrontation with nature will be demonstrated. As well, the use of rhetorical strategies will be examined, because the way the current generation is dealing with the environment, it's only a matter of time for society to face drastic measures.

The act of forgetfulness among society has its roots dating back to the period of colonization. Colonialism can be intercepted as an act of taking control of the territory of the natives who once ruled over their land by brute force, legal domination, and cultural inequalities. In the article "Land Acknowledgement" the argument the author is trying to portray through their

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work is to have the reader recognize, acknowledge, and pay respects to the Lenape and the Setauket, the indigenous people, who once lived on the colonized land that we call home. The author does not want the reader to only recognize the indigenous people who have once lived in their colonized land but to also recognize the harm done to the people after colonizing their land by mentioning the stolen labor of enslaved natives and the author's words are a "call to commit and to take on the responsibility to begin the process of working to dismantle the ongoing legacies of settler colonialism.." In this case, the author used a strong use of the rhetorical device of pathos as the author expressed their devastated emotions and repetition of what the natives and indigenous tribes had to go through against colonialism. It can be said that the natives did not deserve what they had coming from colonists, but without their foot being placed on the indigenous land society would not have become the way it is now, and what the author wants us to see from these two perspectives. Yes, what the indigenous tribes had to go through cannot be excused but instead, the following generations including ours should at least look back at the origins that have allowed society to keep on progressing.

The landscape in which the people are currently living and walking on is just a layer of concrete that has buried several different bodies of land, water, and wetlands that have been changed drastically to a point that the human eye cannot easily spot. This process is called industrialization and, in the article "Let Water Go Where It Wants to Go," written by Dr. Eric W. Sanderson, the author talks about the fragile state the city of New York is in of the countless floods affect the pedestrians with no solution being found towards on how the damage can be

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reduced or on how to even evade the floods aiming the City of New York. There are two rhetorical devices used by the author on conveying his argument, the first would be the presence of pathos since the article is an opinion-based article where the authors frustration is present as he presents his argument to the reader by stating the following "The losses are mainly the result of our inability to read the landscape where we live and conceive fully what it means to live there (Sanderson), which is extremely effective in this case because the author is warning the reader to educate themselves on a serious note that isn't being taken seriously by the public and if no action is taken then flooding will keep on getting worse within the City of New York. In addition to pathos, we can also see the presence of logos in the article when the author tries to present the reader solutions to dealing with the issue of constantly having to deal with buildings disrupting the flow of water is the main cause of floods taking place in the city. Upon reading the solutions and emotions being expressed the reader would feel pressured to take this argument into account and reconsider the solutions to prevent any further problems in the community.

As a few people are trying to reach out to society as the previous authors have through their worried, the article "Why New York is Underneath a Brook It buried a Century Ago" the authors are serving the reader a more informative piece of writing rather than being opinion-based where both the authors inform the readers how industrialization is having a negative impact on society and nature overall by blocking the wetlands buried underneath the City of New York. It is also suggested to the readers ways in which the people can fix these issues by mentioning the following statement, "Restored waterways serve as a kind of "natural

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infrastructure” in cities, Ms. Hoffner said, bringing benefits such as reducing sewer overflows, saving energy and money at wastewater plants that unnecessarily treat clean water, creating more green space and improving quality of life in neighborhoods.” (Hu, Thomas). The rhetorical device used in this article would only be logos because the author is informing the reader of the negative impacts of constructing structures on top of hidden wetlands that would place the safety of the community of New York City at risk of potentially being hit with a flood alongside with photos and maps of how the wetlands have changed overtime with their locations. The use of this rhetorical device is very efficient because the reader simply be informed about the claims presented through not only the text but also through the maps, illustrations, and pictures given by the author that would allow the reader to see how much the environment has been affected overtime by industrialization.

The best approach towards an argument that is more effective is when the author serves the reader a more opinion-based piece of writing stating their argument that is backed up with information to prove themselves. In other words, the best rhetorical strategies would be pathos and logos. The rhetorical strategy of pathos can be seen as a strategy that can express a critical claim and pathos would be the method used to back up your claim which is a perfect combination because this is the way the reader wouldn't just view your article or argument only as an opinion but as a more informative news outlet that allows the reader to be astonished by the amount of information not openly shown to the public that can potentially be the solutions to the common problems we all run into daily. This whole issue would bring the question as to whether

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the public should immediately react to this problem, the answer would be yes because this whole discussion holds a great significance in warning the reader about the consequences we all face for not educating ourselves on the negative impacts our actions have and how the natural beauty we once had is slowly fading away from existence.

### Works Cited

“Land Acknowledgement”

Sanderson, Eric W. “Let Water Go Where It Wants to Go.” *The New York Times*, 28 September 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/28/opinion/hurricane-ida-new-york-city.html>

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