Unconventional Wisdom: Digital Source Analysis

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**Introduction**

In this ever expanding digital world that is the 21st century it is vital for individuals to be able to work with and understand sources that have not always been seen as conventional. Online sources like Google and YouTube have quickly taken over the role of book research and social media websites like Instagram and Facebook have become somewhat reliable places where individuals fell safe to voice their opinions and information is shared. throughout this digital source analysis 4 different unconventional sources 2 Tumblr post, 1 YouTube video and 1 tweet will be analyzed and evaluation in order to give the reader a more formal and relatable look at the Syrian Civil War and its many different implications.

**Tweet and Tumblr Post Comparison**

The First 2 sources that will be analyzed are a tweet posted by Calgary Confessions and a Tumblr post by the Huffington post. The tweet reads:

Yesterday I was on the bus doing some typical errands and a Syrian family got on the bus a few stops later, I know they were Syrian because they were with an aid who was showing them how transit works and what not. The bus had an engine problem and it sputtered a little bit and then made a huge pop, and their two children started screaming and the mother threw herself on top of them like a shield. They thought it was gunshots. Now to be honest I was completely against the refugees coming here but my heart fucking broke into pieces seeing the sheer terror on their faces. No one deserves to live in a state of constant fear and my perspective has definitely changed. I really hope we can make life better for them as the sheer ignorance is just making it worse. I have often taken for granted how good Canadians really have it.

Although this tweet is limited by twitters 140-character allotment it tells a short yet powerful story about how Syrian refugees are viewed by others and how the crisis in Syria has effected them. The Tumblr post tells a very similar story without any restrictions of how Syrian refugees are seen negatively but it also debunks a few of these common misconceptions. A couple examples the post talks about are how over 2000 Syrian Refugees have been resettled in the United States and not one has been arrested which gets rid of the theory that most Syrian Refugees are criminals and how U.S politician Ben Carson mentioned most Syrian Refugees are of age males who might be terrorist when in reality only 2% of Syrian Refugees are males of combat age and most Refugees are women and children. The creators of both the tweet and Tumblr post are intending to reach individuals who are against Syrians being welcomed in the United States and Canada for no real reason at all. The writer of the tweet establishes credibility (Ethos) and Reason (Logos) with the audience by sharing his story openly with them and with his honestly throughout the post on such a controversial topic. The Author also has a reputation of always speaker their mind and sharing their true beliefs on many dense topics. The author does a great job of relating to the audience’s emotional side (Pathos) by telling a heartfelt story about a mother and her children and the hardships that they have more than likely faced. The author of the Tumblr post also does a good job establishing credibly and reason by being a reliable and trustworthy source were individuals who are interested can learn more and by introducing facts into their argument. They also appeal to the audience’s emotional side by sharing the truth about some of these ugly misconceptions.

**Syrian Holocaust**

This source is another Tumblr post by Salon that compares the refugee crisis in Syria to the holocaust and how the United States has reacted to both. According to Salon “In 1939, the United States refused to let the S.S. St. Louis dock in our country, sending over 900 Jewish refugees back to Europe, where many died in concentration camps, that moment was a stain on the history of our country – a tragic decision made in a political climate of deep fear, suspicion, and antisemitism. The Washington Post released public opinion polling from the early 1940s, showing that the majority of U.S. citizens did not want to welcome Jewish refugees to this country in those years,” they continue. “In 1939, our country could not tell the difference between an actual enemy and the victims of an enemy. In 2015, let us not make the same mistake.” The intended audience of this source is users who know of the mistakes that were made by the united states during the holocaust or any individual who knows of how bad the holocaust was. The purpose of this post is to persuade those individuals to take a stand for these Syrian Refugees before it is too late. The writer of the post does a good job establishing credibility (Ethos) and Reason (Logos) by using unarguable facts in their post. They also pull at the reader’s heartstrings (Pathos) by comparing this issue to the holocaust.

**YouTube Source**

The last source that will be analyzed is the YouTube video uploaded by the guardian a YouTube channel that is known for discussing and analyzing important issues. What the guardian attempts to do and the purpose of this source is to explain the Civil war in Syria, how it started and its implications in a short 5-minute animated video and it is done in a very clean and informative yet interesting way. The intended audience of this video is viewers who want to learn about the Civil war in Syria but don’t have the time or willingness to read through hours or research. This video has been seen by over 800,000 people and has had a very positive reaction on the people who have seen it. As mentioned earlier this channel is known for discussing and analyzing important issues so it establishes it Credibility (Ethos) there and the video talks about facts (Logos) of the crisis so it cannot be argued. The facts alone in the video about the Syrian civil war and refugee crisis are enough to leave an emotional (Pathos) imprint on all its viewers.

**Conclusion**

Through the analysis of these 4 modern sources a better understanding of the Crisis going on in Syria and the sources themselves was gained by the author and the reader. Though these source are seen as unconventional this digital source analysis showed that they can still not only inform but impact the way people feel about certain issues.

Reference Page (In Order of usage)

1. <http://allthecanadianpolitics.tumblr.com/post/139731508274/a-calgarian-changes-their-mind-about-syrian>
2. <http://huffingtonpost.tumblr.com/post/133893152613/watch-syrian-refugees-the-rumors-vs-the-facts>
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