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Mrs. Holston
AT: Language and Literature - C Block
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"The Dog Ate My Tablet, and Other Tales of Woe" Precis

In "The Dog Ate My Tablet, and Other Tales of Woe," Carolyn Foster, a professor at Cedar Crest College critiques the various excuses made by students when they were unable to complete their schoolwork. She examines all excuses she's heard throughout her time as a teacher ranging from computers glitching to family issues. The essay could possibly be intended for aspiring teachers who want to know what to expect in the classroom, or students who are missing assignments and need to come up with a believable excuse. The purpose of this essay is to inform readers about all of the crazy tales kids can come up with nowadays.

not quite

need more evidence

really consider context along with the content of the text

Rhetorical Strategies:

- Humor: Just from the title, "The Dog Ate My Tablet," it is evident that humor plays a role in this text. Satire may be used to "mock" the absurd excuses that students come up with to avoid doing homework. Incorporating humor into the text can make it more engaging, lighthearted, and easy to follow for the audience.
- Ethos: Uses her knowledge from the classroom to provide reliable and true information
- Logos: Uses logical appeal by stating facts about the classroom and students

Discussion Questions:

- In what ways does the essay reflect the changing nature of personal accountability in this time?
- Does her use of humor and lightheartedness throughout the text elevate her point? Or does it take away from it, not showing enough seriousness?
- ~~Do the everyday excuses make it harder to believe when someone really is experiencing these things?~~ Do the everyday excuses make it harder to believe when someone really is experiencing these things?

vocab?
quotation

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development
of
argument

"Why Chinese Mothers are Superior" Analysis

intro article

Amy Chua, a Chinese mother of two daughters, and a professor at Yale Law School, presents an examination of the differences between Chinese mothers and other mothers. She makes the claim that Chinese mothers are superior because of the pressure they put on their kids and their ways of pushing their kids to be better than everyone else. She elevates her argument by providing anecdotal evidence, such as stories from when she was a kid or things she has done to her own kids. She also says that when she shared her parenting experience with a group of non-Chinese mothers, they were absolutely blown away, showing the difference in the parenting styles. The purpose of Chua's writing is to inform people of why Chinese are stereotyped to be more successful and smarter, due to the parenting and harsh restrictions these kids have. This could be intended for an audience of American parents, who are worried about their children not being successful enough, and wanting to learn why "Chinese people are typically more successful." It could also be targeted at Chinese people who want to know why their parents were so harsh on them as children.

Western

make
to sure
follow
how
she
builds
her
argument

tone?

significance?

Rhetorical Strategies: need 5

- Ethos: "Well, I can tell them, because I've done it." Uses her credibility as an Asian mother to provide insight on the topic. The fact that she is an Asian mother herself makes her a reliable and believable source
- Pathos: Mentions the fear brought onto parents if their child does not do well enough. She uses words like "superior," "tough," and "strict" to engage the reader's emotions
- Logos: she uses personal anecdotes from her childhood, as well as strategies she has used with her own children related to the subject to show why and how being such a harsh Chinese mother works
- Hyperbole: she makes generalizations to get a point across, when it may not be totally true. For example, she says that Western parents are concerned about their children's self esteem, whereas Chinese parents are not. Obviously (or at least hopefully), there is a part of Chinese mothers that wants their children to be mentally okay.

pg #s

Discussion Questions:

- How does Amy Chua measure "success"?
- What are some potential long-term effects of putting so much pressure on your child? Does it affect their mental health? Does it ever backfire in the future?
- Does Amy Chua's confident tone strengthen her argument or does it risk alienating the reader?

• Where do these parenting ideas originate from?

Quotation:

"Chinese parents demand perfect grades because they believe that their child can get them."
(339).

there is a
little
more
going on
here

vocab.?

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Advanced Topics: American Language and Literature

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follow
formatting
guide on
template

Choices:

- calls out his own publisher (NY Times)
- opens by making himself relatable to more than one group

~~accusatory tone~~

"Call Me 'They'" **Precis**

bold

Analysis

in what way?

Farhad Manjoo, a columnist and journalist, dives into the complexities of gender identity.

Manjoo addresses the use of gender-neutral pronouns as an embrace of diversity and a step

what's the claim?

towards reverting the English language to be more inclusive, pointing out that the gender binary

terms are strangers to a lot of people. The argument uses pathos by citing their own personal

narrative and using anecdotes, ethos by beginning the text explaining why they are a reliable

expert on the subject, and logos by pointing out real world examples and issues with the gender

binary controversies. Manjoo's purpose is to provoke thought and normalize the use of

more specific

gender-neutral language, advocating for a more inclusive world. The text is aimed at many

different audiences, reaching out to those who may not support the use of different pronouns,

main audience
those who
are not
we need

challenging skeptics to reconsider their point of views, or maybe those who are advocating for a

more inclusive world, and therefore want to find more information on the subject. Manjoo's

piece is significant because it offers insight to a very controversial topic in today's world, and it

can help make a difference in how people think about gender, making room for everyone's

identities.

vocab. , rhet. strategies quote

Discussion questions: • Is Manjoo's argument TOO strong on one side?

Is it too alienating to the point where it backfires and causes people to disagree?

• They say "And - unless you feel strongly about your specific pronouns." This makes me wonder if he's "contradicting" himself by making other pronouns seem less important?

• Is he trying to push away a specific group of readers or is he speaking harshly to PULL that specific group in?

specific
when
discussing
this claim
supported

what is
the
argument
discussing
on
gender