

Ashley

Law lit circle

4/6 - exceptional

## Rhetorician

① pathos: appeals to readers emotions

"It's true that mass incarceration is a horrific problem. Back in the 1970's the increase in incarceration did help reduce the crime rate, maybe accounting for a third of the drop. But today's incarceration levels do little to deter crime while they do much to rip up families, increase racial disparities and destroy lives."

this passage is an example of David Brooks is appealing to pathos as shown in his wording of the passage. David is providing examples of a left wing bias & being against mass incarceration, also persuading the reader with things that are very valuable to many people such as families, & struggles with racism. "today's incarceration levels do little to deter crime while they do much to rip up families, increase racial disparities & destroy lives," is an amazing example of the author is appealing to the readers emotions because the phrasing of this sentence shows the hurt & the negative sides of incarceration.

② logos: logic

"His research suggests that while it's true that lawmakers passed a lot of measures calling for long prison sentences, if you look at how much time inmates actually served, not much has changed over the past few decades. Roughly half of all prisoners have prison terms in the range of 2 to 3 years, and only 10% serve more than 7 years. The laws look punitive, but the time served hasn't increased, and so harsh laws are not the main driver behind mass incarceration, either."

This passage shows the author appealing to logos by showing another person's studies & not making this article just an opinion piece. The studies the author uses are very good in proving the author's point against

mass incarceration and also make the article appear more logic based and trust worthy. The author shows many examples of appealing to logos throughout the article by using many different studies and statistics to further prove his point, also stating the war on drugs doesn't explain the number of incarceration skyrocketing.

③ Ethos: the readers sense of the author as credible & trust-worth or the readers morals or ethics.

"The mandatory minimum theory is also problematic. Experts differ on this, but some of the most sophisticated work with the best data sets has been done by John Pfaff of Fordham law school. When I spoke with Pfaff on Monday I found him to be wonderfully objective, nonideological and data driven."

The author shows that he is appealing to ethos in this passage by showing he has done his research and shows he went to credible sources. The author uses words such as nonideological & data driven to emphasize that Pfaff is a trust worthy source, and by doing that we, as the readers, don't question his source because we see it as reliable. The author shows compassion towards inmates, and uses many different statistics and studies which shows good morals of the author and also make the article as a whole seem more credible.