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Mr. Fitton

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Law Studies 12

House of Hate Rhetorician appeals

“We as a country are warehousing our social ills, while offering little in the way of self-improvement, rehabilitation, or redemption.” In Maclean's article *House of Hate: how Canada's prison system is broken*, one can view the substantial amount of pathos persuasion used to engage readers. Yet, the use of pathos is manipulated in a manner where the author blames you for our failed prison system. As you can see in the first sentence sourced from the article, the word “we” has been introduced. Not blaming this problem on certain people yet everyone in our community and government. The simple use of “we” has a greater impact on readers rather than just exclaiming a problem. It is allowing the reader to open to the idea that we are creating these problems in our prison system. Whether it be with the cells, food provided, racist acts, discriminatory system/ guards, or unbearable living conditions. The author is appealing to the reader's emotional level, letting them hold a sense of sorrow and understanding the problem they are a part of.

“More than 40 percent of all inmates released are returned to custody within two years, usually on parole violations.” The coordinations found in all passages point to how we have failed our prison systems. A tremendous example is that 40% of inmates do return to jail after being released. What are we doing so horribly wrong in our prisons that so many inmates feel the need to return to crime after being released? The fact is we offer no time for self-reflection nor an adequate plan for rehabilitation for these prisoners. They may have failed our society, yet that

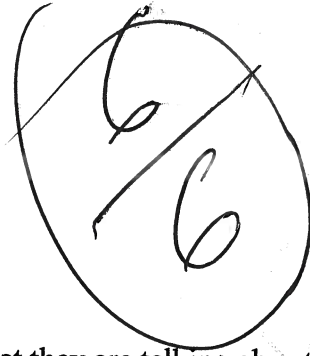
Law Bias Paragraph

Mathew Picheniuk

Houses of hate: How Canada's prison system is broken

Law 12

Wow - well done!
CAN I keep AS
AN EXAMPLE



For the whole article to be valid, the author must know what they are talking about. I did research on Justin Ling. Everything I could find on him is that he mainly focuses on political topics and COVID-19. His work includes lots of Canadian politics, so I am not sure if he is qualified to write something on federal prisons. After reading multiple articles, I can confirm he is leaning very heavily to the left. This is also shown throughout the article, "houses of hate". He slowly tries to dissect the Canadian prison system. But to be honest, he doesn't do too well of a job. He does not convince me of his beliefs. Mr. Ling obviously thinks prisons are the worst places in the world. He writes about how inhumane it is and goes on to say how they have improved it since 2019 drastically, even to the point of putting televisions in the cells. He says it still hasn't improved, which is not true at all. He himself said, "The system is supposed to add safeguards and mental health support. They are supposed to give inmates more time outside their cell and meaningful human contact." indicating that it is getting better. Lots of his comments could be put under the category of bias. For this reason, the article loses lots of credibility and readers attention to the true points.

Author Justin Lin provides multiple assumptions of what he thinks prisons are like. On the first page he writes, "Prison makes everybody worse who's in there". He is also on record of adding in the following quotes. "It's a pretty crappy building but it's what happens inside that's worse", "They can fix up the building all they want, but it's not going to change the culture that's inside", "Canada still locks inmates in a tiny, windowless cells for 22 hours a day, or longer, for months or years on end", and, "Not every officer is part of the problem. Well-intentioned and well-trained correctional officers are plentiful". Some of these are not bad assumptions, but he does not know if it is true. There is no evidence that can back up these assumptions. He goes on to make many more assumptions further in the article that read, "Prisons constantly struggle to handle the number of inmates with severe mental health issues", "Sentenced time is supposed to be "productive," yet that is rarely the case". And, "Canada's prisoners are antiquated, inhumane, violent, and expensive. They don't even work". This last remark even I know is untrue. There are even work opportunities in most prisons in Canada. So with no evidence for these statements, they are useless to his cause.

Along with the slight hint of unreliability, there is also a good amount of assumptions, which can only lead to one thing, bias. Bias is something all writers should try to avoid when writing, especially about politics, social and community issues, and crime. There are some good examples of bias in this article, one being. "Our prison system is dangerous", "our prison system is racist", "our prison system is falling apart", "our prison system is eye-wateringly expensive", "our prison system isn't even working". Bias comes in all shapes and forms, but Mr. Ling is left

wing bias, meaning he doesn't automatically lean towards the left side of the political spectrum, but he probably will. This indicates to the reader that he does not agree with modern prisons, he probably wants prisons more based on rehabilitation and making new and helpful members of society. Canadian prisons are not focused purely on that yet, and that is why he wrote this article. The only bias going the other way for him is he says it is, "eye-wateringly expensive", which is a belief by right wing bias because the right wing wants to lower spending on prisons. There are so many more examples of bias I could find in the article, some include, "The only people who still believe this system is working are our feckless politicians". He also said, "It's hard not to feel like history is repeating itself". But it's not only the author, prisoners are getting in on this too, one is quoted on saying, "people thinking that we get good food in here? Oh my god, that's ouf". Ouf is a French slang word, which means, "crazy". The prisoners are obviously going to be biased against the prison, hell, I would be if I was locked in there! The food might not be bad compared to lots of other items available for the prison to buy. But they are still in prison, and the food given to them now is sustainable enough for anyone. Meaning he did not have to argue about this, it was his choice to say that. With that, I conclude my report on the matter of bias, assumptions, and reliability.

CAN I keep as a sample
Wow - exceptional!
G/B

Mitchell Paxon
29/10/21

Bias in the Houses of Hate: How Canada's prison system is broken

In the article "Houses of Hate," written by Jung Ling, he writes of the Canadian prison system and the flaws within the system. The author writes, "Dangerous, racist, and falling apart. By nearly every metric, the nation's penal system is not just failing, it's making it worse." This is referring to the Canada's prisons approach to justice and how it is not running smooth in any way. Throughout the article, Justin Ling critiques Canada's Prison system and thinks that it only makes situations worse for most offenders. A prison by the name of Stony Mountain comes up in this article as being "dangerous and unfit for habitation." An 18-year-old was sent to Stony Mountain on the charge of Breaking and Entering but was only then influenced by gangs which even recruited the 18-yr-old to attack another inmate causing his sentence to expand. Jung Lings exclusive showing of negative evidence against the prison system in favor of the inmates leads me to believe that this article is a left wing economic liberal bias as he favors more funding on prisoner institutions and better counseling for these individuals so that they can get better.

Economic Left libertarian bias examples

1. The economic left bias in this article is shown in support of more funding for better results. Very little is spent on prisoners' diets in Canada. Data shows that "If a prisoner were to eat every morsel of food on their plate, they would get about 2,600 calories a day," while "active adult male actually needs about 2,900 calories," a day. Only "\$5 a day," is spent on prisoners' food. These negative examples imply that the author, Jung Ling, has a negative opinion towards the little spent on diets which leads me to believe he leans toward the left-wing economic side as he seems to favor funding. He only adds negative data of the current CSC food budget and supplies reason to fund more such as the next "massive riotous situation they face in the next five years is going to be because of the food."
2. The libertarian bias in this article is shown when Ling writes of the administrative segregation within prisons across Canada. "Canada still locks up inmates in tiny, windowless cells for 22 hours a day, or longer, for months or years on end. That meets the United Nations definition of torture, a definition which Canada has endorsed." Ling does not describe this practice as one that should be carried on in prisons in Canada. Through this description, we can tell the Ling feels a libertarian bias that aligns with the mental health of the prisoners. He feels that this approach is wrong and does not fit what Canada attempts to brand its prisons as. If he aligned with the authoritarian side, he would have endorsed this practice as it is great for punishment, but he is not as he describes the act as being "unconstitutional."

Possible economic right bias example

1. In regard to the Correctional Services Canada or CSC, Ling writes very poorly of their spending. It is "eye-wateringly expensive," Ling describes Canada's prison system to be. The CSC has a "\$2.6 billion budget," making it "the 15th largest department or agency by spending." This expensive spending by the CSC is disliked by Jung Ling as he shows his feelings about it as he describes it as being "eye-wateringly expensive." it is this negative attitude toward the large amount of spending that could have his bias in this statement leaning towards the economic right. I believe this because he seems to want to cut costs and use less tax money to pay for these prisons which is in line with the economic right's beliefs as they believe in spending less. However, Jung only aligns with the right wing when it comes to the CSC specifically and their habits. He does not apply this to the area of prisoners and prisons. Therefore, I believe Jung Ling to have a right wing-based bias when it comes to the subject of the CSC but not all other areas.

Conclusion

In conclusion, even with Jung Ling's bias, I believe this article to be factual and trustworthy. Ling exclusively showed data that aligned with his views of the "crumbling prison system," but none seemed to be fake and the information that was shown seemed to be of high quality. This caused the article to feel very persuasive on his side as I found myself aligning with him because of the detailed information given about the situation at hand and what is and isn't happening due to the gaps in funding and overall care. Overall, this article, although biased, was informative and well written.



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Sources

Ling February 28, J. (2021, February 28). *Houses of hate: How Canada's prison system is broken*. Macleans.ca.

<https://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/houses-of-hate-how-canadas-prison-system-is-broken/>.