Critique Essay

In the article, “The Myth of Co-Parenting: How it was Supposed to be. How it Was” nonfiction novelist, Hope Edelman, analyzes how gender roles have impacted society through a series of real life experiences. Edelman claims that there is a stereotypical blueprint for a family in which most families are patriarchal. This means the mother stays at home and cares for her kids, while the father is too busy with work to be there for the family. She explains through personal anecdote and hasty generalization that marriage consists of different parenting roles and that co-parenting is a myth. Throughout her article, her emotions spill out and her harsh words reflect her experiences by showing how she feels about her claim. Edelman goes on angry tangents about these topics using red herring making her sound like she is screaming at the reader, which then causes the reader to feel as if her points are invalid. The way that she expresses her idea about gender roles in modern culture, shows that her claim is seen to be less effective to the reader.

Throughout the article, Edelman describes the stereotyping of women as caregivers and stay at home moms. Her essay asks the question of the disparity of women’s income when they stay home versus when they are working. First, in the new modern culture, women and men are thought to be equal in which sex should bring in the income for the family. Edelman describes this as not being true. Using
hasty generalization she explains ideas such as “all men do this when it comes to marriage” or “all women do this in the relationship” saying that with all marriages and all relationships the man have to do certain tasks and women have to do other specific tasks. She doesn’t talk about the other side of the argument and her own experiences are the only ideas that are being shown. Edelman is basing everything off of her personal relationship and how her and her husband do things at home. Most of the article is biased toward one side, while the other side has no say in what she thinks. In the article Edelman states, “If I’m going to contribute half of the income, then he’ll contribute half of the housework and childcare.” This quote is inferring that woman want to work instead of staying home and raising their kids while other women would love to stay home with their kids rather than send them to a daycare or have the father look after them. Her solution to this topic is that there should be more options for mother’s including the possibility of paternity leave for the father and better daycare options for the children.

As the article goes on Edelman uses a personal anecdote to try to back up her claim. Sharing her personal experiences of parenting is bias because the way her husband and her do parenting can be completely different than the way another family chooses to do their parenting. Her points may be relevant to some families that have the same problems as they do but they certainly may not be relevant to all families. Her own experiences don’t necessarily provide the idea of how parenting actually is but these specific ideas are just idealized through her own years of parenting.
Continuing in the article, Edelman starts to get worked up and shows her true feeling about the topic. Using the fallacy of red herring, she goes on tangents. By going on a tangent and talking about ideas that are not relevant to her point, it creates a thought in the reader's mind about how useful this article is and if this author is over exaggerating her own experiences because some of the information provided does not make sense. Through her anger, she creates a sense of distrust with the audience throughout the argument.

Edelman continues to argue about gender roles in society and describes that having a family can certainly drive away someone's hopes in dreams. As Edelman describes her life experiences, she analyzes them through non sequitur. In her conclusion, she describes how because of her commitment to parenting she has had to give up her hopes and dreams. Edelman assumes that all women are going to have to give something up in return to committing to parenting. In Edelman's case, it was her hopes and dreams.

Throughout Edelman's article “The Myth of Co-Parenting” she addresses her claim through fallacies and rhetorical devices that gender roles are still in place in society and still influence marriage and parenting. Modern society has put a label on men and women. Giving them each a different role in parenting, Edelman tells her real life experience through a series of personal anecdotes. Her strong feelings of how co-parenting is a myth is shown through her word choice within the article. She reveals how she feels through a red herring, making the reader feel as if her claim is not reliable.