Making America Great Again?

In “Is this a Muslim ban? Trump’s executive order explained,” Alan Yuhas and Mazin Sidahmed, two very talented and experienced writers, who have written many articles on Trump during the election and after he secured the presidential nomination. Such as “Trump's immigration ban: which cases are in play and what happens next” and “Is Trump's 'extreme vetting' immigration order unconstitutional?” Discussing and breaking down Donald Trump’s executive order that banned entry from seven majority-Muslim countries, focusing on all parts of the ban including others opinions and reactions of the people. One of Donald Trump’s promises while campaigning was to strengthen borders and immigration policies to ensure the safety of our people. Yuhas and Sidamed wrote the article for The Guardian on January 31, 2017, days after the order was signed on January 27, 2017. The signing of this order caused a lot of confusion in the first 36 hours of it being signed, as it was one of the vaguest, most uniformed executive orders. While the Guardian’s article effectively and thoroughly addresses the controversy, and provides reasoning behind the recent order signed it also gives you a brief insight to the executive order and the people’s reaction, relying heavily on ethos and other rhetorical devices to persuade the audience, it also uses fallacies, and assumptions.

Executive order 13769, “Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States” is the official name for the order Donald Trump signed. The order was challenged and protested, acquiring numerous lawsuits, such as State of Washington v. Trump, which
temporarily restrained the order on February 3. The order limited the number of refugees to be admitted into the United States in 2017 to 50,000 and suspended the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program for 120 days. After the 120-day suspension, travels to certain countries would resume under strict supervision. The order also indefinitely suspended the entry of Syrian refugees. The order directs some Cabinet secretaries to suspend entry of nationals from countries who do not meet the standards under the Immigration and Nationality Act. Homeland Security lists these countries as Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. The order was widely seen as fulfilling Trump's campaign pledge for a "complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States," known as his "Muslim ban".

The audience for this article is any immigrant that has entered the United States, they are afraid that it may be there country to be banned next. Although the ban is directed toward certain countries and a certain religion, it still impacts anyone closely related. Since Trumps administration is attacking “Muslims” it is a possibility they will stereotype what a “Muslim” looks like. The author is addressing older immigrants and citizens of the United States, or any outside seeking more information on the travel ban. Based on the location of the article in Washington D.C. the perceived audience is the public wanting to inquire more information. The intended audience for this article is older, mature, immigrants and citizens, or if you are a student. Recently in the news and through social media you are hearing about people discriminating and harassing religions closely related to Islam, such as Hinduism and Sikhism. There are many cases regarding Sikhs being forced to remove their turbans, which is a sign of disrespect. This order is affecting anyone of color, people are scared to leave the country, fearing they will not be able to return.
The purpose of this article is to inform the public about the orders being signed. Since there was a lot of confusion this article was published 2 days after the order was signed. The author is trying to inform the personnel about Trump's orders, although everyone may not agree with his orders and they are vague he is trying to fulfill his campaign promises. The purpose of this article is to also show the public how vague and uninformed this order is. Someone who has just been elected into office should justify the executive order being passed. After you read the text the authors want you to think that you are well informed with the subject. Also, the authors bash Trump's order throughout the text. They did not make one positive remark on the matter, making one believe the order is all negative.

The content of the article is the explanation and breakdown of Trump's “Muslim ban”. Since he administered the order “there was much confusion in the first 36 hours over whether legal US residents would be allowed to enter the US. They were initially denied entry, but on Sunday night, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that some “legal permanent residents” who pose no “serious threat” to the US would be allowed in on a case-by-case basis” (Sidahmed, Yuhas). The author explains what the order has done, what the immediate consequences are, how Americans reacted, which Republicans stood with Trump, and what the legal challenges are to the ban.

The context of the article is what Trump promised to his supporters, to strengthen immigration also with terrorism on the rise he felt this was important. While Trump was campaigning, he promised a “Muslim ban” which is implied in the title. He banned Syrian refugees from entering the US indefinitely because all refugees from there are a “serious threat”. From all seven countries banned for ninety days, they are subject to add more Muslim based countries for our safety.
The main rhetorical appeal used throughout the article is ethos. Ethos is expressed through the credibility of the authors. Both authors Alan Yuhas and Mazin Sidahmed are credible, they both graduated with a journalism degrees from prestigious universities. Yuhas and Sidahmed both have done extensive research to establish credibility of their article. The source of the article Guardian US is a well-known output for daily news. Guardian Media Group plc a British mass media company owns various media operations including The Guardian and The Observer. The Guardian has three buildings in the United States, a headquarters in New York, and offices in San Francisco, and Washington D.C. The guardian does not only focus on politics, they cover other topics such as: sports, entertainment, lifestyle, arts and breaking news. The authors and network is trustworthy and although the authors may be biased the facts presented throughout the article have nothing to do with their opinion.

Another main appeal used in the article is pathos. Pathos is expressed in the article by making the reader feel sympathy for the people affected. Every immigrant comes to American in search for a better life, money, or for their safety. Being kicked out of the country or not being able to travel back home is devastating. Taking in consideration that the main audience for this article is immigrants, the author uses pathos to make it effective, and relatable. What Trump’s executive order is trying to do is morally wrong, he is ruining the idea of the “American dream”. “Thousands of Americans protested at airports and outside a Brooklyn courthouse in the 48 hours following the executive order, demonstrating in solidarity with migrants and their families. The protests were peaceful. New York taxi drivers also staged a work stoppage at Kennedy airport to protest against the orders” (Sidahmed, Yuhas). The authors included this quote to show we are sticking together, and protesting this order. “Princeton University and other schools have warned students not to leave the country, while leading US companies including Alphabet,
Amazon, Ford, Goldman Sachs and Microsoft came out against the policy” (Sidahmed, Yuhas). Schools and well-known companies of our society are speaking out against the ban, because many students or workers are immigrants, that benefit our society.

Logos is expressed throughout the commercial. It is used to convey the authors purpose to inform the audience. Yuhas and Sidahmed are using the logical appeal to reason with the audience. They reason that everyone should be informed about the current order being signed. Although it may not affect you, logically speaking if Trump is willing to sign an important and very controversial order, he may sign something that will affect you later. This strategy urges the readers to take all factors into consideration.

Since this is a very controversial topic there are many assumptions. The authors are assuming although this order affects more people than immigrants, the people care. Also, the Trump administration is assuming all people from these countries pose a threat to our safety. Most people who are immigrants come to the United States in search of a better life, and to get away from the hard times they once had. Since this is referred to as a “Muslim ban” that is stereotyping an entire religion, implying every Muslim is as threat and has bad intentions. Trump specifically, does not want any Muslims entering or working in this country. In a written statement, the Trump campaign said the Republican frontrunner wanted a “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on,” (Sidahmed, Yuhas).

A fallacy identified in the text was the “patriotic approach” that Trump is trying to protect America and preserve our patriotic country, if you are against his beliefs or ideas, you are considered unpatriotic. Most of the population stuck together to protest the order. “Thousands of Americans protested at airports and outside a Brooklyn courthouse in the 48 hours following the
executive order, demonstrating in solidarity with migrants and their families. The protests were peaceful. New York taxi drivers also staged a work stoppage at Kennedy airport to protest against the orders,” (Sidahmed, Yuhas). There are several lawsuits underway in federal courts in New York, Massachusetts, Virginia, and Washington state. The people of our country are sticking together, showing a united front.

The tone throughout the article is very formal and informational. The tone helps the authors purpose of informing the audience. The organization of the article also helps readers easily comprehend and understand the material. The article offers many viewpoints, the viewpoints of Trumps administration, immigrants, the citizens of our country, other Republican figures who agree or disagree with the order, and lastly it expresses the legal challenges to the ban. The article provides sufficient evidence for each claim made by the authors.

The authors of this article, Alan Yuhas and Mazin Sidahmed show biased throughout the article, their articles seem to have a biased against Donald Trump. Mazin Sidahmed is a breaking news fellow at the Guardian US. If you view the other articles Sidahmed has written, you notice many them are on politics and the bills Trump has proposed such as “Trump: 'Torture works’”, “Trump: 'We will build the wall’”. On Sidahmed’s Linkedin profile it shows he is bilingual and is proficient in Arabic. In his previous work experience he would report stories at The Daily Star on Lebanon. Lebanon is located beside Syria one of the indefinitely banned countries. Approximately 54% of the population in Lebanon is Muslim (Lebanon - Religious Sects). These factors provide evidence to prove Sidahmed’s bias on this subject. Alan Yuhas is a reporter for the Guardian US. Most of the articles Yuhas has written are about US politics and the Trump administration such as, “Travel ban in disarray as airlines told they can board barred passengers
– reports” and “Travel ban: US temporarily suspends order as Trump derides judge.” All his articles have the same concept and idea, they are all found on the guardian’s website.

To conclude, by Yuhas and Sidahmed using rhetorical appeals it effectively and thoroughly addresses the controversy. It provides reasoning behind the recent order signed, and gives a brief insight to the executive order, and the peoples reaction. By using fallacies and assumptions the author catches the reader’s attention. The article was very effective in proving the authors claims, the authors provided sufficient and useful information for the reader to better understand and evaluate the content and context.
Work Cited

