

Julia Adams

Raechelle Manis

Writing 200

January 31, 2012

Proposal for “Re-Purposing an Argument” Assignment

For the “Re-Purposing an Argument Project”, I plan to reframe a creative nonfiction piece I wrote about my experiences with amblyopia or “lazy” eye. This condition first seems comical and I certainly treated it that way in my creative nonfiction piece, at least at first; however without intervention before the age of eight, it can cause loss of vision in the weaker eye, potentially blindness and added strain to the stronger eye, which can also cause problems. The treatment is simple, an eye patch or drops, but some families do not follow through and this can have irreversible consequences. As such, I would like to write a piece to increase awareness of this issue, tying in my personal experience, research on the causes and treatments, and data on outcomes in order to give a broader, more comprehensive view of this condition. Of particular interest to me is a comparison of the resolution of this condition, relating on how old the child was and success of treatment as well as what kind of socio-economic status the family the child came from and success of treatment. I have a suspicion based on personal experience, though I have yet to do research on this, that those from lower incomes are more likely to have children who suffer long-term negative consequences from this condition. As such, my purpose in this piece would be to inform and raise awareness of this condition and encourage treatment and further involvement, giving it a social justice, journalistic perspective compared to the more literary perspective of my original piece. My audience would largely be parents and those interested in social justice and public health. Accordingly, I would have this piece be a column

Comment [RM1]: I get a little lost in here...that is, how old what child was, and what is the pool for comparison, etc.?

for any journalism-related website such as CNN's Health section or USA Today. I chose nonprint sources over print because I believe my topic could definitely benefit from color pictures to illustrate what amblyopia looks like, and, if I can find them, charts documenting trends I hope to reference in my column. Also, I chose a more editorial column rather than a pure article because it will allow me to include my own experiences to augment piece (as opposed to my creative nonfiction piece, they will not be the center of the piece) and more openly persuade my audience that treating amblyopia is worth caring about, and even encourage activism. Once again, I look to Malcolm Gladwell's style to prevent this piece from becoming too dry despite its rather didactic purpose. Ultimately, I hope to write a well-reasoned and researched editorial column for a website like CNN.com's Health division, detailing a condition and its treatment in the real world, hoping to inform and raise awareness of a medical issue for an audience of those interested in children, health, and social justice.