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ENG 102

11 Nov 2004

The essay I have chosen to evaluate is named "The Internet: A Clear And Present Danger?" Cathleen Cleaver, the essay's author, is a former director of legal studies at the Family Research Council. Ms. Cleaver has published extensively on issues relating to the Internet and children. Ms. Cleaver posits in her essay that although the Internet is a useful tool for information and learning, it is also a place where the dangers to children grow on an exponential scale. She also states that while there are laws in place against child pornography the current efforts fall far short of what needs to be done. Throughout the essay the author taps the reader's emotions, however, she effectively intertwines emotion and reason with evidence to explain her thesis.

Using emotion combined with reason the author grabs the reader's attention with her first paragraph using a situational mechanism. She appeals to emotion by placing the reader inside the scenario that someone starts a child pornography site and when you complain nothing is done. She then uses reason to explain to the reader that nothing can be done "if child pornography distribution laws don't apply to computer transmissions. (p.459)" She uses this technique several times to exemplify what the Internet may look like without laws. This method is successful in that it immediately places the reader inside the examples given thereby making the reader an active participant in the essay as opposed to the reader's normal passive role.

Ms. Cleaver next moves on to use a combination of character and reason appeals in the following two paragraphs. For example, she begins her character appeal to fairness in argument by acknowledging the fact that the Internet is a "technological revolution of enormous

proportion...(p.459)". She then tells the reader that she has an understanding of the Internet as a tool and that "as a whole" the Internet is not a dangerous place. Ms. Cleaver then carefully explains her thesis that people who use the Internet should not be exempt from the laws and regulations that govern their actions in everyday life. The above use of reason and character appeal work quite well here as the author acknowledges how the Internet as a whole is used but gently reminds that it is not a lawless frontier. She also reminds us that our laws and regulations should apply to the public's actions on the Internet just as they do in everyday lives.

The author employs the next few paragraphs to show the possibilities and realities of pornography on the Internet, again using the tools of emotion and reason. She paraphrases The Washington Post early in the section by stating the paper writes "the Internet is the largest pornography store in the history of man kind". Using this phrase as a catalyst for reason the author uses descriptive emotional examples of how pornography has proliferated the Internet and how easy it is to access such images and sites. She uses further emotional appeal by asking tough questions about how Internet porn, in all of its formats, speaks to the condition of a society that teaches human sexuality by exploitation and degradation.

The next paragraph cites the opposing arguments to her thesis and employs character appeal by acknowledging that opponents feel it is up to parents to govern their children's access to material on the Internet. In the next sentence she counters that opinion by stating it is "...far easier for a distributor of pornography to control his material than it is for parents...(p.462)", and uses evidence to support the statement. For instance, she shows how easy it is for a teenager to post a question to a discussion board about how to turn off the filtering software and the almost immediate response he receives. Ms. Cleaver then uses further evidence, quite successfully I might add, to state the obvious "...filtering software is only effective where it is installed...(p.462)" and that there are places of potential exposure all around our children, even a neighbor's house.

The remainder of the essay continues to state and argue against opponents' claims by stating the opposing view and offering evidence that refutes those claims. Each resulting paragraph begins with an opposing view and the balance of that section is filled with evidence that uses both emotion and reason. By the end of the paragraph not only does she seem to defeat the opponents' claims she fleshes out the argument and shows how weak she perceives it to be without appearing judgmental or confrontational.

Cathleen Cleaver uses all of the appeals tools at her disposal in this essay. She clearly states her thesis at the start of the paper and effectively defends that thesis throughout the balance of the essay. She uses emotional appeal without appearing melodramatic, reason appeal by offering evidence and establishes her credibility and levels the playing field by using character appeal in a way that is useful without being confrontational. I found only one place in the entire essay in which her method of argument is weak. In one paragraph she raises the question of enforcement, which is normally the first question I ask, by stating that red lights at an intersection do not force people to stop, and some do not, but it does not mean the law is futile. I find it difficult to equate running a red light with Internet child pornography. If I used her reasoning then it would be fair to say that we can call the problem solved if the government steps in and creates a law that makes this or that illegal, knowing full well if someone wants to peddle porn they will happily break the law to do so. That being said the rest of the essay was very effective in almost changing my mind about regulating the Internet.