***Paper 1: What Is Poverty? Response***

Jo Godwin Parker has enabled to portray the emotions and living conditions that people living under poverty face, through his essay `What is poverty?`. The author utilizes a wide variety of stylistic devices, organizes each paragraph and takes in consideration the audience in order to reveal the theme and message of the impact and limitations that poverty has on a human beings. He successfully achieves his purpose to educate and spread awareness of the reality that people face on a daily basis when living under poverty by reaching into our hearts and generating lots of emotion through a writing piece.

The author makes it evident that the essay is intended to people who are not living under poverty. This is because all through out the essay, Jo makes a comparison between a life of someone who is living under poverty and someone who is not. From the first paragraph, the rhetorical question is given to the audience for them to understand that it is the pure and cold reality who is expressing all the issues that a poor man has to face. That there is more than those first world problems that the audience may probably have. The author therefore has the intention of making the audience compare and realize that the problems that people who do not live under insufficiency are less intricate than those who do, yet this is only possible if the audience are those who do not face poverty.

The message will be efficiently distributed to the public by properly emerging a theme related to it. A sense of disgust towards the unprivileged redundant life of a man under poverty is produced with the hopes of receiving help. The author needs to gain the readers empathy and compassion with the use of stylistic devices, such as pathos, in order to receive that willingness of help from others. For example, when the author describes how “Poverty means insects in your food, in your nose, in your eyes, and crawling over you when you sleep,” a shock value is set. This means that as a description of their life style, ethos, is expressed, a sudden realization from the audience of what poverty really is creates pathos. The audience will most probable feel pity and will therefore have the need to help those in poverty in order to save them. Pathos is what will capture the audience attention and will encourage them to keep on reading and find out more about these hidden pragmatism.

The sensational use of stylistic devices is what engenders such strong emotions for the public to confront the reality of poverty. The essay is written in first person to entail real life situations and problems that someone faces. A more personal context with then make the audience connects to such information. There is a constant repetition of the word ‘poverty’ to be reminiscent of what the essay is about as well as to build up on such strong word that can represent the threat in human lives. This repetition causes simple sentences to become a more dramatic one, which is exactly the mood and atmosphere of through out the essay. Another stylistic devise is the way imagery is used to incorporate senses in order to portray a greater amount of feeling and emotion in a deeper manner. By saying “It is the smell of the mattresses where years of "accidents" have happened”, then the word poverty encompasses to a greater extend where it is always present even when you are trying to rest. It describes how those living conditions penetrate your life in every possible way. The author also incorporates metaphors when saying “Poverty is cooking without food and cleaning without soap.” The exaggeration through metaphors allows the readers to imagine all possible situations that one who lives under poverty has to go through; It expands such imagination of inhuman conditions that someone would never imagine to be met. All of these stylistic devices are all portrayed upon the aim to define the awful parts of poverty as well as the gateway to create pathos. Thus it makes the audience understand what they do not have to go through and consequently capturing all the compassion that one may have.

The tone that Jo Goodwin has used and varied in his essay has allow his message to be well communicate all through out the reading. When the author starts by saying “Listen to me. Here I am, dirty, smelly, and with no "proper" underwear on and with the stench of my rotting teeth near you” the informal, serious and personal type of tone is set. The audience is able to understand what type of narrator and character the protagonist is. His unreserved tone makes the reader build trust on what he is saying as well as mercifulness for such person that is no different than them. This will also portray desperation has hit the character when demanding the audience to listen to him and his complains. Such simplicity of the character allows the audience to ‘hold on tight’ to such strong words that describe the reality that no one wants to accept. On his last paragraph when he says “Look at us with an angry heart, anger that will help you help me” we can compare the change in tone from the beginning to the end of the essay. He ends with a hopeless tone in which asking for help is the only thing left. His disquiets from the beginning developed into a despairing situation of wanting and needing the help that they never got.

Moreover, the structure of this essay also takes a huge role in efficiently delivering the message to the audience. To begin with, the title is a rhetorical question that is answered by the upcoming body paragraphs. This encircles the idea of poverty as well as gives the audience the pre-understanding of what they will be reading. This may then cause the audience to expect the author to talk about the how poverty is wrong, yet never expecting such personal approach to some one who is actual experiencing poverty. Also, the way the author alternates from first person to second constantly creates a more personal relation between the reader and the writer. Writing in second person allows the audience to feel as if Jo Goodwin is directly talking to them. This will allow an emotional comparison between what are the feelings, thoughts and problems that “you” have to go through versus what “I” have to go through. This will then give a glimpse and understanding of the issues, memory and emotions that the man facing poverty has.

Furthermore, Jo Goodwin Parker portrays the mindset and living conditions that people living under poverty have to go through, through his essay ‘What is Poverty?” The author utilizes stylistic devices, tone, structure, and takes in consideration his audience in order to effectively deliver the theme and message of the impact and limitations that poverty has on human beings. He is capable of generating compassion and empathy from the audience in order to ask for help as well as create a shock value. Jo has conveyed an unearthing realization of the problems we face in reality due to the writing elements which help shape a successful essay.