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Exploratory Essay

When I first started doing research for my paper, I struggled with finding scholarly journals or articles that answered my research question. My question is “How is the screenwriter disrupting hoax tropes to influence the audience.” I ran into many articles with commentary about the book, but none pinpointed the movie. The first article I found that I thought could answer this question, talked about a different world of Oz. I initially thought It explained the virtual reality behind the world created in the Wizard of Oz movie, but it was not talking about the movie at all.

As I delved deeper into the databases, I noticed many commentaries about the Wizard of Oz from many different perspectives. There was monetary commentary, literary comment, historical commentary, etc. It was difficult choosing a few that fit the argument I am claiming for this paper. After even more digging, I found two legitimate sources that I can use for my argument.

One source I chose is called *The Wizard of Oz: Shaping an Imaginary World*. This book talks about many different things, but the points I am focused on are the literary and historical context, the importance of *The Wizard of Oz*, and the critical reception. The author, Suzanne Rahn, starts off with the background of the author of the books and how his life influenced the story of *The Wizard of Oz.* The next section, the importance, explains the effect of his books on children books history and on the children. This book changed how typical children’s stories were portrayed and it created a new era for storytelling. The last section, the critical reception, talks about the opinions of the audience and the effect it had on them.

The other source I chose is called *The Making of the Wizard of Oz*. This book explains the different stages the story went through to create the movie. It talks about the script, the directors, casting and etc.

These two sources have given me a different angle to my research question. I can use the points of historical context, critical reception, the making of the movie, etc. to show how this movie doesn’t depict a typical hoax. These points can explain the format of how the director chooses to reveal the hoax and why it made sense for him to do it in that way.

One thing I have not found yet, but I do intend on finding is movie reviews. These reviews will help me tie in the point of how the audience is affected and how that helps the director in the way he reveals the hoax at the end of the movie.

Harmetz, Aljean. *The Making of The Wizard of Oz*. New York: Knopf, 1977.

Rahn, Suzanne. *The Wizard of Oz: Shaping an Imaginary World*. New York: Twayne, 1998.