Reflective Portfolio Letter

Outcome 1

In my portfolio, I have blog posts, revised papers, and revision reports. In my blog posts, I identify my four strongest posts and my weakest post. These blog posts allowed me to exercise different styles of writing. One genre of the blog posts was a close reading of a quote. Here is a sample of the close reading: "The author first starts out by adding imagery to this opening paragraph. He points out what one might see while walking through the streets of Ireland on a typical day: "the streets, the roads and cabin-doors, crowded with beggars of the female sex." He makes it a point that these beggars are mothers with many kids to add to his overall proposal of making use of these kids that he reveals later in the story." This close reading creates an image for the audience and adds an analysis to reveal the author's purpose. Another genre that our blog posts included was listing our favorite features of other people's hoax podcasts. Here is a sample of that blog post: "One of my favorite features of other people's podcast was the different voices people used. Some people chose to do all the voices themselves, but used an accent, so their voice was unrecognizable or change the pitch of their voice. while others chose to use other people's voices with an accent. Both ways made people's podcast sound legitimate. Another favorite feature of mine was the music people chose for their podcasts. The music either provided great transitional points or an ambience that added to the overall purpose of the hoax." This post not only lists what my favorite features were, but it explains the effect these features had on the listeners to connect with my audience.

Outcome 2

In one of the papers included in my portfolio, I went through many drafts. My teacher and peers viewed my first draft and included comments on the draft itself. To change it, I included more evidence to support the points I previously made. I also did an analysis of the included evidence to smoothly integrate the quotes into my paragraph and to make my points stronger. Here is an example of a paragraph that I changed:

1st Draft
"The author, Lois Viereck, used this hoax to deceive the German media and depict America as the 'wild west' millionaires the Europeans saw them as."

2nd Draft
"The author, Lois Viereck, used this hoax to deceive the German media and depict America as the 'wild west' millionaires the Europeans saw them as. 'The hoax had doubtless succeeded so well because it played upon the somewhat fanciful image of America held in the minds of many Europeans.' By using this 'fanciful image,' Louis Viereck grasped the audience easily into his hands and ultimately they believed his story."

I used another quote to clarify my point about the image of Americans as "wild west" millionaires, and explained how the author used this to his advantage.

Outcome 3

During this semester, I learned how creators of hoaxes used techniques to persuade their audience. In order to accomplish this, I had to think critically about the choices they made to accomplish this. I also had to read the text as an audience member to experience the effects the other intended to happen. By taking this new approach to reading and writing, I realized that I am able to pick out the techniques used and expand on their purpose and effect. In my first paper, I show a good example of critical reading and writing:

"The line 'Up to the present time the fact has been kept secret from the press, and I myself became acquainted with it by an absolutely authoritative person during my presence in the national capital. The whole thing is to be kept secret as long as possible, at least until the Government has succeeded in finding traces of the criminals…' At the very beginning of this quote, you notice that Louis Viereck explicitly throws himself into the story. He deceives the audience by making himself apart of the hoax. He describes interactions with a so-called person in the government, but he adds a line that talks about the secrecy of it immediately afterwards. He doesn't give the name of this person, which is why he follows with the line about secrecy. Louis Viereck uses that line as a subtle excuse for why this person doesn't have a name. He uses quotes to establish his credibility, but baits the audience by giving out very little information."

In this close reading, I create an argument about the author's intentions behind his word choice and how it affects the audience.

Outcome 4

In my research paper about *The Wizard of Oz*, I give a background for the story to help clarify the hoax. I remember watching the movie for the first time and thinking that the Wizard did exist, but I was shocked at the end when I found out that he was just a man. My paper includes historical context for when the movie was released and why the storyline of *The Wizard of Oz* fits that time period:

"The time period that this movie was released in was during the Great Depression. During that time 'many undesirable vices associated with hopelessness were on the rise" (Social and Cultural Effects of the Depression). The director wanted to use the author's idea of an American story and depict it in the movie. Many Americans lost a sense of national pride, and Victor Fleming wanted to get that back by directing a movie Americans could relate to. Having a girl from a small town in Kansas get thrown into a world she knows nothing about is similar to the situation many Americans were in during the Great Depression."

Including this background helps explain why the story was created and how it leads into the hoax at the end.

U.S. Treasury Trickery

On April 1st, 1905 a hoax in Germany took the country by storm. A story written in the local newspaper, *Berliner Tageblatt,* claimed that $268,000,000 was stolen from the U.S. Federal Treasury with the help of American 'Robber Baron' multimillionaires. These alleged bank robbers constructed an intricate tunnel system over the span of three years. The tunnel system started in a building, which was located across the river from the U.S. Federal Treasury building in Washington D.C. The alleged thieves used the building to conceal tunnels underneath. Gold and silver was transported through the tunnels via electric cars, and then loaded into small submarines. The thieves claimed to have run off and have never been found. This hoax was discovered to be an April Fool's Day joke, but despite this claim, other countries, including America, Hungary and Austria, printed this story on the front page of their newspapers. The author, Lois Viereck, used this hoax to deceive the German media and depict America as the "Wild West" millionaires the Europeans saw them as. "The hoax had doubtless succeeded so well because it played upon the somewhat fanciful image of America held in the minds of many Europeans." By using this "fanciful image," Louis Viereck grasps the audience easily into his hands and ultimately they believe his story.

Because of the validity of Europeans' opinion about Americans at that time, this story provided entertainment for a number of countries. Europeans created this image of Americans by listening to the radio and hearing news stories about them. From the news stories, Europeans deduced that all of America was a Wild West with millionaires, which the author used this to his advantage. He wanted to create a joke that was not only plausible on April Fool's Day, but also believable to his audience. He uses this content to engage his audience. The hoax contains a

stereotype such as "working with millions of capital," that played into the picture that Europeans had of the United States. This word choice the author uses hints at the power the government had over Americans. There's millions of capital, meaning many powerful men to control America. These words are the essences of the millionaire image Europeans have of Americans.

The terminology used also provided credibility for the hoax. By involving the government and other countries makes the hoax valid to the audience. The line "Up to the present time the fact has been kept secret from the press, and I myself became acquainted with it by an absolutely authoritative person during my presence in the national capital. The whole thing is to be kept secret as long as possible, at least until the Government has succeeded in finding traces of the criminals…" adds to the realness of the hoax because in reality people view the government as an organization that keeps secrets from the common people. At the very beginning of this quote, you notice that Louis Viereck explicitly throws himself into the story. He deceives the audience by making himself apart of the hoax. He describes interactions with a so-called person in the government, but he adds a line that talks about the secrecy of it immediately afterwards. He doesn't give the name of this person, which is why he follows with the line about secrecy. Louis Viereck uses that line as a subtle excuse for why this person doesn't have a name. He uses quotes to establish his credibility, but baits the audience by giving out very little information. This leaves the audience wanting more.

Louis Viereck's original audience was people in Germany who had easy access to a newspaper and an interest in matters, which dealt with the government. It expanded to a larger audience after the story was revealed to be a hoax. Many people had easy access to newspapers, so this medium made it easy for the story to spread. Having the story posted on the front page of *Berliner Tageblatt,* drew the attention of readers and made them at least glance at the story even

if they chose not to read it. Once Germany flaunted the success of the hoax, the audience grew immensely. Other countries including America, Austria and Hungary posted news articles about the hoax as well. People with an interest in government and the ability to access a newspaper in those countries became apart of the audience. Having this specific audience made the hoax successful because it immediately engaged a wide range of interests.

In order to hook his audience, Louis Viereck strategically placed the story on the front page of *Berliner Tageblatt*. It drew attention to the hoax and added a bigger purpose for his stance. Louis Viereck created this story as a mockery of the United States, for humor on April Fool's Day, and as entertainment for his audience. This hoax attained success because it subtly hinted at how European countries view Americans. The insinuated stereotypes and added to the perceived knowledge Europeans have of Americans which creates a definitive stance for the author.

To enhance his stance, Louis Viereck uses a tone that makes a parody of how Americans and the U.S. Government appear to European countries. The line "It must be considered less remarkable that the sixty-eight night watchmen did not hear anything…because these fine officials know only one care, to draw their salaries on the first of the month" hints at what Europeans think of Americans. In the first line, the author uses a false sense of surprise to point out the "typical" actions of Americans. Europeans see them only as money hungry citizens, who view their salaries as their first priority. With this tone, Viereck creates a satire that effectively fools the people of Germany, Hungary and Austria. He also has a humorous tone in his hoax to create a fictitious story in light of April Fool's Day.

By using a satirical tone, Louis Viereck's portrayal of Americans makes the hoax seem logical. People thought of the U.S. as a "kind of Wild West ruled by outlaw millionaires," so it

made sense for the story to be true. The author uses the typical stereotypes that were associated with Americans to create a story that played off those assumptions. This made the audience reading the story think that this robbery was typical of Americans because of their many millionaires, even though it turned out to be a hoax. The Americans who responded to this article were surprised that the people of those nations believed the story, but they even agreed with how the author depicted them.

The author explicitly uses ethos and logos, but he does not explicitly use pathos in the story. Instead he evokes emotions from the readers by using a satirical tone to display clichés about Americans. This is what drives his story. He plays off of those emotions that he knows people have towards the United States to help create his picture of the robbers, American millionaires, and the U.S. Government. This is a general picture that Louis Viereck feels the majority of Europeans have of Americans. These feelings ultimately create the success of the hoax and make it believable to the audience.

Although the hoax first started out as a fictitious story for April Fool's Day, other techniques made the story go beyond a simple prank. The author strategically used imagery that Europeans associate with Americans to persuade the audience, German media and other nearby European countries into believing the story. He builds off of the stereotypes depicted with Americans to make the story seem logical to his audience. Louis Viereck used a humorous and satirical tone to enhance those stereotypes, establish his stance and create an overall purpose. He involved the government, other countries and even himself to make the hoax credible. All of those aspects collectively work together to not only create an effective satire, but also fool the people of Germany, Hungary and Austria.

Paper 1 Revision Report

In the first draft of my paper, I had some strengths that I kept and weaknesses that I changed. I did a good job of making points, but I lacked evidence to support those points and clarify them. In my revision, I focused on using quotes to back up my points and to provide proof. Instead of using a quote without an analysis, like a did a few times in my first draft, I included in-depth analyses to smoothly integrate the quotes into my paragraphs. In my first draft, I always connected back to my thesis, so in my revision I made sure to connect my new points to my thesis as well.

The first revision I made was at the end of the first paragraph (see exhibit 1). I added a quote from the article that talked about the story to expand on what the image was that Europeans had of the Americans. I introduced what the author intended to do, then I used a quote to display his technique. To wrap everything up, I end by explaining how the author used this image and technique to his advantage to persuade the audience and make them believe that the hoax was real.

I transitioned into the second paragraph and explained how Europeans obtained their vision of Americans in the first place (see exhibit 2). Instead of throwing around an image with nothing to support where it came from, I added some context. I also added an analysis of the quote that I used in the paragraph. The analysis points out the author's technique of using words that immediately trigger the image Europeans have of Americans at that time. These images are the backbone for what the author uses to persuade his audience.

In the third paragraph, I tweaked the quote that I used (see exhibit 3). I decided to use the whole quote instead of half of it because it adds to the point that I make in my analysis. I make a point about how the government keeps secrets and how the author slyly includes himself in the story, but does not name the authority who gave him the information about the robbery. Adding the whole quote, gives evidence for my analysis. In my first draft, I tried to make the same analysis with half of the quote, but it only confuses the point I am trying to make without the evidence to support it. My analysis also points out the authors use of deception to trick the audience.

Lastly, I included more detail about the audience the author was attempting to target (see exhibit 4) Instead of describing a generic audience, like the common people, I included other aspects, such as having an interest in issues amongst the government as well as having access to a newspaper, to point out what made the hoax successful. Targeting this specific evidence added to the success of the hoax.

Exhibit 1

The author, Lois Viereck, used this hoax to deceive the German media and depict America as the 'wild west' millionaires the Europeans saw them as.

"The author, Lois Viereck, used this hoax to deceive the German media and depict America as the 'wild west' millionaires the Europeans saw them as. 'The hoax had doubtless succeeded so well because it played upon the somewhat fanciful image of America held in the minds of many Europeans.' By using this "fanciful image," Louis Viereck grasped the audience easily into his hands and ultimately they believed his story."

Exhibit 2

"Because of the validity of Europeans' opinion about Americans at that time, this story provided entertainment for these countries. The author of this hoax, Louis Viereck, wanted to create a joke that was plausible on April Fool's Day. Not only did this story engage his audience, it deemed true because of its content. It contained stereotypes such as "working with millions of capital," that played into the picture that Europeans had of the United States."

"Because of the validity of Europeans' opinion about Americans at that time, this story provided entertainment for these countries. Europeans created this image of Americans by listening to the radio and hearing news stories about them. From the news stories, they deduced that all of America was a Wild West with millionaires, and the author used this to his advantage. He wanted to create a joke that was not only plausible on April Fool's Day, but believable to his audience. He used this content to engage his audience. The hoax contained stereotypes such as 'working with millions of capital,' that played into the picture that Europeans had of the United States. This word choice that the author used hints at the power the government has over Americans. There's millions of capital, meaning many powerful men to control America. These words are the essence of the millionaire image Europeans have of Americans."

Exhibit 3

"Those same pictures also provided credibility for the hoax. Involving the government and other countries makes the hoax valid to the audience. The line 'the whole thing is to be kept secret…until the Government has succeeded in finding traces of the criminal' adds to the realness of the hoax because in reality people view the government as an organization that keeps secrets from the common people. The author also implements himself and reveals how he found out about the hoax. He claims that he heard from an authoritative person, not specifically named. By him including himself in the story, he portrays himself as the link between his audience, who are the common people, and the government. This technique adds to his credulity and persuades his audience."

"Those same pictures also provided credibility for the hoax. Involving the government and other countries makes the hoax valid to the audience. The line 'Up to the present time the fact has been kept secret from the press, and I myself became acquainted with it by an absolutely authoritative person during my presence in the national capital. The whole thing is to be kept secret as long as possible, at least until the Government has succeeded in finding traces of the criminals…' adds to the realness of the hoax because in reality people view the government as an organization that keeps secrets from the common people. At the very beginning of this quote, you notice that the

author explicitly throws himself into the story. He deceives the audience by making himself apart of the hoax. He describes interactions with a so called person in the government, but he adds a line that talks about the secrecy of it immediately afterwards. He doesn't give the name of this person, which is why he follows with the line about secrecy. He used that line as a subtle excuse for why this person doesn't have a name. The author uses this quote to establish his credibility, but he baits the audience by giving out very little information."

Exhibit 4

"His audience originally was the common people in Germany who heard about this hoax or read about it in the newspaper, but it expanded to a larger audience after the story was revealed to be a hoax. Many people had easy access to newspapers, so this medium made it easy for the story to spread. Having the story posted on the front page drew the attention of readers and made them at least glance at the story even if they chose not to read it. Once Germany flaunted the success of their hoax, the audience grew immensely. Other countries including America, Austria and Hungary posted news about this hoax as well, and the common people in those countries became apart of the audience."

"His audience originally was people in Germany who had easy assess to a newspaper and an interest in matters that deal with the government, but it expanded to a larger audience after the story was revealed to be a hoax. Many people had easy access to newspapers, so this medium made it easy for the story to spread. Having the story posted on the front page drew the attention of readers and made them at least glance at the story even if they chose not to read it. Once Germany flaunted the success of their hoax, the audience grew immensely. Other countries including America, Austria and Hungary posted news about this hoax as well. People with an interest in government and the ability to access a newspaper in those countries became a part of the audience. Having this specific audience made the hoax successful because it immediately engaged their interests."

Hypothetical Revision Report

In the beginning of the podcast, eerie music starts and plays throughout the exploration for the ghost. The purpose of this music in the beginning is to set the stage for the scary mood. To revise it, I would have played it during the narration, stopped it during the interviews, and continued with a different eerie song during the exploration to indicate a mood change that happens. I would pick a song that fits the dark and brooding mood of the exploration. I would have also wrapped up the podcast by using the same song I used in the narration that started the podcast to bring the same scary mood that I used in the beginning back to the end. In between the narration and interviews, there is white noise that is used as a transition. I would change that transition to one that is smoother, maybe an interlude that is scary music that leads into the interviews.

During the exploration, my character lacks conviction and has a monotone voice. I would change the character to be more adamant about her disbeliefs of the ghost and have more energy. This change in character makes the audience view her as more of a skeptic and adds to the fear factor when the girls come across the ghost.

To add another perspective to the podcast, I would create two new characters. One character would be an interviewer and the other one would be Sir Dooley, the grandfather of Lord Dooley and the ghost. The interviewer would interview Sir Dooley and ask about his intentions with haunting freshmen in Dobbs Hall. This interview would add reasoning behind the hauntings and introduce the audience to a different view point they've never heard before. I would add these lines after the exploration, to end the podcast similarly to how I started, with interviews. Some potential lines are:

Interviewer: Hi my name is Ben, and I'm here with Sir Dooley on 101.3 the Haunting Hour. It is nice to meet you. I would like to ask you a few questions regarding your hauntings.

Sir Dooley: Fine. I don't see the point of these wretched humans knowing the reasoning behind my hauntings. They don't deserve to know.

Interviewer: I understand Sir Dooley. We are just curious about your intentions.

Sir Dooley: These questions won't change my mind about why I haunt humans, but I am willing to answer them.

Interviewer: Great! First I want to ask the question we all have been dying to know. Why do you haunt humans?

Sir Dooley: I died as a young boy being shocked to death. My friend scared me while I was walking the halls in my dorm. He took my life, so now I seek revenge on the residents of Dobbs hall.

Interviewer: You seek revenge on innocent college freshmen that had nothing to do with your death?

Sir Dooley: Yes (said with an angry tone)! I see these freshmen trying to scare their friends thinking it's funny, they deserve to be scared themselves. They need a taste of their own medicine.

Interviewer: So I'm assuming that your motto in life is an eye for an eye?

Sir Dooley: Yes! People deserve to feel what their actions do to others. This is the only way that they will learn and change their actions.

Interviewer: I myself don't live by that motto, but I understand your point of view. So how long have you been haunting students.

Sir Dooley: I've been haunting for 99 years.

Interviewer: My last question is what feeling does haunting give you?

Sir Dooley: Haunting gives me a feeling of victory. I feel like I've successful gotten my revenge, and the students will not longer scare their friends.

Interviewer: Alright thank you Sir Dooley. Again, my name is Ben her at 101.3 the Haunting Hour. Have a Happy Halloween folks!

The Magic Behind the Wizard of Oz

"We are off to see the wizard, the wonderful wizard of oz." This jingle many Americans know from the famous movie *The Wizard of Oz*. It tells the story of a young girl, Dorothy, who has a strong desire to go home when she mysteriously appears in a land called Oz after a tornado struck her hometown of Kansas. The story also includes a scare crow, a lion and a tin man all in search of something they think they do not possess. The scare crow is in search of a brain, the tin man is in search of a heart, and the lion is in search of courage. Lastly there is the infamous wicked witch of the west and of course the ruby red slippers, but there is something that many do not automatically think of. Behind the glitz and glamour of the journey of Dorothy with her friends that she meets along the way are underlying stories that lead into an overall theme. The theme is whatever you think you do not possess; you will soon find if you look deep enough. The director, Victor Fleming, uses techniques like depicting an innocent girl to relate to the audience, focusing the movie on her journey, and adding other elements such as good vs evil and a quest for something desirable to entertain the audience and lead them into a hoax. He uses these other plotlines to distract them, and at the end, they are blindsided with a man who poses as a wizard instead of the real wizard of Oz. Although the movie does primarily focus on Dorothy's journey home, all of these techniques culminate to a surprising reveal at the end that lends itself to the interest of the audience in hoaxes.

The original author of this famous story created an idea to connect with children of that time. He wanted to relate to the audience in a unique way that was unorthodox. During the time this story was being written, typical children's stories included fairies and dragons. Frank Baum, the author, wanted to shy away from those ideas, and he felt that "a time has come for a series of new 'wonder tales' in which the stereotyped genie, dwarf and fairy are eliminated, together with

all the horrible and bloodcurdling incident devised by their authors to point a fearsome moral to each tale" (Rahn 8) He used this perspective to create a story that included none of those types of characters and hinged on an overall theme that was related to children.

In the movie there is theme that occurs throughout the plotline. The theme was that everything you have a desire for that is reasonably attainable is already within you. Victor Fleming uses the false depiction of the Wizard to display this theme. By the characters confronting someone who pretends to be who he is not, they realize that they already had a heart, brain, courage, and the ability to go home all along. They are no different than any other man. The wizard shows them that they only lack a material possession that proves they have these characteristics. This theme sets up the hoax that the characters believe in and leads them to discover it to be untrue.

The director uses this realistic theme to relate to the audience and ultimately hook them into the story while grasping their full attention. He also adds to the story by incorporating other minor plotlines to accompany this theme. The plot of Dorothy's journey as a whole identifies with children. The expedition of a young girl through a magical land plays into their imagination and fantasies. It's something that they would like to experience, so it catches their attention right away and keeps it until the end of the movie.

The plot of good vs. evil also identifies with children. They want to see Dorothy make it home and defeat the wicked witch of the west and the scarecrow, tin man and lion get a brain, heart and courage. It feeds into their mentality of innocence similar to the innocence of Dorothy. With a young audience that is targeted like this one, most haven't experienced the bad things of the world, and they want to see everything work out for the best because that is what they are used to.

Not only do these plotlines identify with the audience, they tie into the hoax at the end of the movie. The good vs evil plotline plays into the hoax by incorporating the slippers. The wicked witch wants Dorothy's slippers, and Dorothy wants to go home. Ultimately she goes to wizard for help, where she discovers the hoax, to get home, but it's the slippers that help her get home. The director once again reiterates the theme of already possessing something you think you do not have to lead into the hoax.

With a story that includes this many nuances, you wonder how it was created in the first place. In the late 1800's, Frank Baum had trouble financially. He owned many businesses that ended in bankruptcy, so he moved to Chicago with his family looking for work. He found success in a window trimming company, which allowed him to quit his real job and spend more time on his writing. During this time, Chicago appealed to other writers looking for "literary experimentation" due to its up and coming cultural renaissance. Baum was able to surround himself with other fellow writers, artists and publishers. With the help of illustrators Maxfield Parrish and W.W. Denslow, Baum was able to create his first children's story. After creating a few children's stories, Baum wrote *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz.* This story was different compared to others. Instead of basing the story off of traditional British rhymes, Baum took a different direction by creating a distinctly American imaginary world. This American world successfully captured the audience's attention and continues to today.

The time period that this movie was released in was during the Great Depression. During that time "many undesirable vices associated with hopelessness were on the rise" (Social and Cultural Effects of the Depression). The director wanted to use the author's idea of an American story and depict it in the movie. Many Americans lost a sense of national pride, and Victor Fleming wanted to get that back by directing a movie Americans could relate to. Having a girl

from a small town in Kansas get thrown into a world she knows nothing about is similar to the

situation many Americans were in during the Great Depression. Citizens were used to having

enough to survive, but after the economic downfall they were thrown into a world they knew

nothing about. A world where they didn't know if they could afford dinner that day or have a

job. Victor Fleming used this plotline to initially grab their attention, but he went further from

the American experience to keep it.

He used many bright colors and supernatural creatures to depict things that were outside

of the American experience. Having yellow brick roads and flying monkeys is something

Americans would never experience, and Victor Fleming used this to his advantage to help them

escape from their hopeless world. This fantasy pulled them away from what was real. The same

effect that Victor Fleming created for the audience is exactly what happened to Dorothy in the

movie. Dorothy experienced the fanciful world of Oz, only to realize at the end that it was a

dream. The hoax leads her into this realization, similarly to how the hoax leads the audience.

Fleming created a vison for this movie that no other director was able to fulfill. He was

able to manipulate the audience with his ideas and successfully depict it on film. One of the ideas

he changed was the look of Dorothy. Originally the producers wanted Dorothy to look like a

little girl with blond hair, but Fleming changed her image to look like a teenager. Dorothy's new

look helped give a mature vibe to the character, and it fit better with the story line. She related

more to the audience of the movie by looking like and adult, and it made viewers see themselves

in Dorothy. They saw themselves escaping from their world of the Great Depression while

viewing the imaginary world of *The Wizard of Oz*. Fleming also changed the color of the slippers

Dorothy wears. In the book, the slippers are silver, but in the movie they are red. Changing the

slippers to red adds a pop of color and value to what they mean to the wicked witch, who wants

to steal them, and Dorothy who uses them to get home. The last idea he had was the decision to start the movie in sepia and change it to color. This color change adds to the factor of imagination for the audience. It signifies the change from Kansa, aka the Great Depression, to Oz, aka the desirable world for many Americans. The eye-popping colors make Oz seem like a fantasy world, and it easily makes an impression on the audience. These changes are critical to how the different storylines in the movie work together to create the overall theme.

Not only do these changes make an impression on children, they make an impression on adults as well who look back at the movie. Roger Ebert, a movie reviewer, looked back at the movie, and he said "we still watch it six decades later because its underlying story penetrates straight to the deepest insecurities of childhood, stirs them and then reassures them." This movie not only connects with children, but adults who saw it when they were young. It brings them back to the childlike wonder of imagination, being away from home, and finding comfort and support in new friends. All of these minor plotlines and techniques Victor Fleming used to reveal the hoax, were meant to resonate with adults.

This story started out as an experiment to try something new that was outside of the box of typical children's stories. It's effect on children during that time created a movie that will never be forgotten. The different plots worked together and culminated into a hoax like ending to reveal a theme. Not only did the author and director steer away from typical hoax techniques, they created new ones to be the hinge of the story.

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Research Paper Revision Report

In my first draft, I did a good job of making points, but I struggled with connecting it to the central idea of the paper: the hoax. In my final draft I focused on connecting the points I make with the theme of the movie and the hoax itself.

The first revision I made was in the introduction. I added in three sentences to clarify the points I make (see exhibit 1). The first sentence illustrates what exactly each character desired. In my previous draft, I assumed that the audience knew that the Scarecrow wanted a brain, the Tin Man wanted a heart, and the Lion wanted courage. I spelled it out for them in this draft, so they wouldn't confuse the desires with the character it belongs to. The second sentence explicitly says what the theme is. In my previous draft, I didn't include this sentence, and the introduction lacked an element that brought all of my points together. In the last sentence I explained the author's purpose behind having multiple plotlines, and I state what the hoax is. My first draft didn't say what the hoax was, and it left the audience wondering what the surprising reveal was.

My second revision was including a paragraph that explained how Dorothy and her friends discovered the Wizard to be an average man (see exhibit 2). I added this to paint a picture of what happened in the movie, and I connected it to the theme. This discovery of the Wizard contradicts the theme and in this way, it makes the theme more relevant within the characters.

The third revision I made was adding a paragraph that talks about how a plotline ties into the hoax (see exhibit 3). In my first draft, I failed to mention how these techniques connected the hoax, and the hoax itself was lost. I focused on this idea of the hoax in this paragraph and made sure to connect it with my points.

My fourth revision includes historical context for when the film was released (see exhibit 4). This paragraph helps the audience understand the vision of the director when he was working on the movie and how it helps reveal the hoax. Victor Fleming meant for the movie to help Americans regain their national pride and lose themselves in this imaginary world.

My fifth revision connects to exhibit 4 and explains how the director kept the audience's attention throughout the movie (see exhibit 5). The director's use of bright colors and supernatural creatures helps them escape the world of the Great Depression. This paragraph adds an explanation of how the audience was lead into the hoax, which is something I lacked in my first draft.

The last major revision I did was changing the conclusion (see exhibit 6). In my conclusion, I reiterated the points I made previously in the essay. Adding this helps wrap up the essay and clarify the points that I made earlier. In my conclusion in my first draft, I mention the different plots working together to reveal the hoax, but I don't explicitly say what those plots are. I included those storylines in the conclusion in my final draft to spell out the points and make it clear to the audience.

Exhibit 1

"The Scarecrow is in search of a brain, the Tin Man is in search of a heart, and the Lion is in search of courage."

"The theme is whatever you think you do not possess; you will soon find if you look deep enough."

"He uses these plotlines to distract the audience, and at the end, they are blindsided with a man who poses as a wizard instead of the real Wizard of Oz."

Exhibit 2

"They initially go to the wizard because they were told that the Wizard would get

Dorothy to her destination. When the four characters meet the Wizard, he initially rejected them

because they did not have the Wicked Witch of the West's broomstick. Once the broomstick was

retrieved and presented to the Wizard, the crew discovered something about the Wizard that was

a great disguise. When they entered the castle to present the broom, the appearance of the Wizard

was a large form of a head, which was surrounded by fire. Although presented with the broom,

the Wizard delays their requests to grant their rewards. As Dorothy and her friend argue with the

Wizard, Toto, her dog, pulls open a curtain and exposes the 'Wizard.' He is discovered to be a

short, middle-aged man, who only poses as the Wizard. When he was exposed, and they found

out that he wasn't in fact a wizard, he responded with, 'Yes, that's exactly so. I am a humbug. I

am a very good man. I'm just a very bad wizard' (*The Wizard of Oz*). The Wizard himself

wanted to posses a grandiose image to portray himself as a powerful man, but in actuality he was

hiding behind a curtain and was just an average. This reveal contradicts the theme of the movie

by showing the Wizard reaching for something he does not have: power. In this way the

characters realize that they have what they desired. The Wizard shows them that they only lack a

material possession that proves they already have what they were searching for. This theme sets

up the hoax that the characters believe in and leads them to discover it to be untrue."

Exhibit 3

"Not only do these plotlines identify with the audience, they tie into the hoax at the end of the movie. The good vs. evil storyline plays into the hoax by incorporating the slippers. The Wicked Witch wants Dorothy's slippers, and Dorothy wants to go home. Ultimately she goes to Wizard for help, where she discovers the hoax, to get home, but it's the slippers that help her get home. The director once again reiterates the theme of already possessing something you think you do not have to lead into the hoax."

Exhibit 4

"The Wizard of Oz was released during the Great Depression. During that time 'many undesirable vices associated with hopelessness were on the rise' (Social and Cultural Effects of the Depression). The director wanted to use the author's idea of an American story and depict it in the movie. Many Americans lost a sense of national pride, and Victor Fleming wanted to get that back by directing a movie Americans could relate to. Having a girl from a small town in Kansas, who gets thrown into a world she knows nothing about is similar to the situation many Americans were facing during the Great Depression. Citizens were used to having enough to survive, but after the economic downfall, they were thrown into a world they knew nothing about. A world where they didn't know if they could afford dinner that day or even have a job. Victor Fleming used this narrative to initially grab the audience's attention, but he went further from the American experience to keep the viewers engaged."

Exhibit 5

"By using many bright colors and supernatural creatures, Fleming depicts things that were outside of the American experience. Having yellow brick roads and flying monkeys is something Americans would never experience. Victor Fleming used this to his advantage to help the characters escape from their hopeless world. This fantasy pulled them away from what was real. The same effect that Victor Fleming created for the audience is exactly what happened to Dorothy in the movie. Dorothy experienced the fanciful world of Oz, only to realize at the end of her journey, it was a dream. The hoax leads her into this realization, similarly to how the hoax leads the audience."

Exhibit 6

"This story started out as an experiment to try something new that was outside of the box of typical children's stories. It's effect on children during that time created a movie that will never be forgotten. The different plots worked together and culminated into a hoax like ending to reveal a theme. Not only did the author and director steer away from typical hoax techniques, they created new ones to be the hinge of the story."

"This story started out as an experiment to try something new that was outside of the box of typical children's stories. It's effect on children during that era created a movie that will never be forgotten. The different schemes worked together and culminated into a hoax like ending to reveal a theme. The journey of Dorothy with her friends distracted the audience and led them into the hoax. The battle of good vs. evil with Dorothy and the Wicked Witch of the West used the slippers as a solution for Dorothy getting home and connected to why she went to the Wizard

in the first place. Applying a distinctly American quality, allowed Americans to escape from

their hopeless world and regain their sense of national pride. Adding bright colors, related to the

children of the audience and painted an imaginary world that they wanted to experience.

Changing Dorothy's image related to the adults of the audience and made them see themselves

as Dorothy along her journey. All of these aspects connect with each other to reveal the hoax and

echo the theme in the movie. Not only did the author and director steer away from typical hoax

techniques, they created new ones to be the hinge of the story."

"It is a melancholly Object to those, who walk through this great Town, or travel in the Country, when they see the *Streets*, the *Roads*, and *Cabbin-Doors*, crowded with *Beggars* of the female Sex, followed by three, four, or six Children, *all in Rags*, and importuning every Passenger for an Alms. These *Mothers* instead of being able to work for their honest livelyhood, are forced to employ all their time in Stroling, to beg Sustenance for their *helpless Infants*, who, as they grow up either turn *Thieves* for want of work, or leave their *dear native Country to fight for the Pretender in Spain*, 2 or sell themselves to the *Barbadoes*."

The author first starts out by adding imagery to this opening paragraph. He points out what one might see while walking through the streets of Ireland on a typical day: "the streets, the roads and cabin-doors, crowded with beggars of the female sex." He makes it a point that these beggars are mothers with many kids to add to his overall proposal of making use of these kids that he reveals later in the story. He uses strong verbs like "forced" and fight to convey the idea that these mothers have no choice. This is the only method they have to make an income. Using adjectives like "melancholy" and "helpless" add to the incapability of the mothers and provides an ambience that promotes that. He first lays out the actions of the mothers, and then the outcome of the children to evoke an emotion from the audience. He wants them to feel pity for the mothers and their children to ultimately persuade them into believing that his proposal is a good idea. In this way he is using Pathos to convey his idea.

The Prompt was a Close Reading

This post is strong because I break down different part of the quotes. I first talk about the imagery in the beginning, then the begging mothers in the middle, and I end with the children at the end. I include quotes to make my points stronger and to provide evidence. I also dissect the different verbs and adjectives the author decided to use and connect it to his overall purpose. Every point that I make, I connect to the author wanting to persuade the audience into believing that his proposal is a good idea.

One of my favorite features of other people's podcast was the different voices people used. Some people chose to do all the voices themselves, but used an accent, so their voice was unrecognizable or change the pitch of their voice. while others chose to use other people's voices with an accent. Both ways made people's podcast sound legitimate. Another favorite feature of mine was the music people chose for their podcasts. The music either provided great transitional points or an ambience that added to the overall purpose of the hoax. What made particular podcasts very successful was the format. Instead of doing a podcast that only consisted of explaining and analyzing the hoax and interviewing an expert about it, some people directed you to the hoax itself. By giving the audience a first hand experience of the hoax, it made the podcast interesting, and it kept my attention. It also gave the audience knowledge of what the hoax itself was like, instead of assuming from another person's analyzation. Another thing that made particular podcast successful, was using common techniques, but personalizing them. For example, some people used the technique of breaking news, one person used the same intro as a tv show, some people added accents to the experts they were interviewing to make them sound "smarter." A couple of ideas I would steal is using music as a transition, the Law and Order intro that Kristin used, and the scary demonic voice that Alex used.

The Prompt was Favorite Features of Other People's Podcasts

This post is strong because not only do I point out my favorite part of people's podcasts, I also provide very detailed, specific examples of those parts. With each technique that I list, I provide a rhetorical analysis that explains what is provided and its effect on the audience. I include points about the ambience the podcasts make, the legitimacy of podcasts, and how interesting the podcasts were. The blog posts also includes my reaction as an audience member and how people's hoaxes affected me.

Hoax Tactics

Posted on September 3, 2015 by A.J. Jackson-Sherrod

The main tactics people use to persuade others that their hoax is real is ethos, pathos and logos. Ethos gives evidence of credibility, pathos taps into people's emotions, and logos provides logic behind the hoax. In the piece about Joice Heth, Barnum uses ethos by providing "certificates," "newspaper articles," and even dialogue from the character herself to verify her story and her age. Having evidence from multiple people makes the hoax more credible. Barnum provides a backstory that uses logos. The backstory of Joice Heth is relevant to a historical time period that existed, and he uses specific details about her origin, marital relationship and slave work that seems like a logical life that someone would have. Pathos is rarely used in this piece, but Barnum does provide detail about the woman being close to death. The tale of Joice Heth's hard lifestyle of labor and losing her husband makes us want to believe that she persevered through it to live to be 161 years old. It feeds into our human instinct to want a "happy ending" despite the adversities we face. In order for a hoax to be successful, it has to relate to the human experience. Being 161 is outside of the human experience, but the supporting story behind Joice is logical, which makes people believe that it is true. A successful hoax always has to include a factor that people in the time period don't know much about. The unawareness of that factor makes people believe that anything is possible and creating a picture for them about that topic makes it believable. A unsuccessful goes outside of the human experience. It includes unrealistic things and doesn't have logical factors to support it.

This post is strong because I start out by clearly explaining the use of ethos, pathos and logos in hoaxes. I use these explanations to provide examples of Barnum's use. The examples are specific quotes or a detailed summary of the text at a specific point. After listing the tactics and evidence to support it, I analyze the effect on the audience and explain why they believed the hoax. After explaining this, I make a smooth transition into what makes hoaxes in general successful or unsuccessful. The points I use for both are direct opposites of each other.

Hoax vs Literature

Posted on August 28, 2015 by A.J. Jackson-Sherrod

A hoax is a story that someone or people make up that is believed to be true by a multitude of people. Hoaxes always have aspects to them that make people want to believe. Some aspects include hope, connecting with a social "trend," and empathy. Hope feeds into our human instinct to want a "happy" ending. Connecting with a social "trend" helps people relate to the story. Empathy ensues compassion, which makes us perceive the story from the creator's point of view, even if the story sounds false. One distinction between a hoax and literature is the style of writing. Literature has more formal writing, while hoaxes tend to be in prose. Another distinction between the two is their objectives. Literature is used to simply tell a story, while hoaxes want to persuade you into believing something that is false.

 This post is strong because I clearly explain what a hoax is. To help explain it, I include general aspects that most hoaxes includes. Instead of simply listing the aspects, I explain the purpose of each one and how they connect to the audience. I include two clear explanations of the distinction between a hoax and literature: one talks about the writing styles, while the other dissects the purpose of a hoax and literature.

Research Questions for the Wizard of Oz

Posted on October 28, 2015 by A.J. Jackson-Sherrod

What tactics does the screenwriter use to fool the audience into thinking the wizard of oz is real?

What effect is the director achieving by starting the film in black and white, but ending with color?

How does the battle of good vs evil add to the effectiveness of the hoax?

I chose this blog post as my weakest one because it doesn't answer what is asked of the blog post. To improve this blog post, I could replace all of these questions with researched related ones, such as "How was *The Wizard of Oz* made?" or "What is the background of the director of this movie?" The questions I have in this blog post are good ones that I could answer in my paper, but they are not good questions to be researched.