

Taylor Davino

Stanley E. Degler Washington Program Application

Essay #1

11 October 2019

Throughout elementary, middle, and high school I always found myself drawn to history, regardless of whether it was sixth grade social studies or AP Government my senior year. I always felt more connected to the material we covered in these classes than I did to my other studies and I did well because my passion drove me to always want to learn more. After graduating from high school, I knew in the back of my mind that I wanted a career that somehow tied me to the subject I had grown to love as a young adult, but I didn't know how to apply these interests to my intended Public Relations major. At the time, I thought the only jobs someone could get through an interest in history was a teacher, librarian, or museum archivist. It wasn't until the summer before my sophomore year of college that I realized I might want to get involved in politics and other government related topics in Washington D.C. as a way to get back into studying my favorite subject.

It was during this time period I realized Ohio, my home state, had begun to propose and pass laws that made me uncomfortable to be a woman who lived there. Governor Mike DeWine signed a six-week abortion ban known as the "Heartbeat Bill" into law effective July 11, 2019, making us the sixth state in the nation to attempt to outlaw abortions at the point when heartbeat activity can be detected. The bill included an exception to save the life of the woman, but no exceptions for cases of rape or incest. The law has been put on hold after U.S. District Judge Michael Barret in Cincinnati issued a preliminary injunction against enforcing the "Heartbeat

Bill,” citing it imposed an “unconstitutional undue burden” on a women’s right to obtain a pre-viability abortion. Although the implementation of the law has been delayed, the fact that it was passed as a direct counter to the ruling in *Roe v. Wade* is a scary thought for those who agree abortion is a constitutional right.

Following these events and realizations, I decided to look into adding a Political Science minor to my coursework as a way to affect change in government processes. I did research and found that I was interested in several industries in the Washington D.C. area, but ultimately, I found that I wanted to work on campaign trails for those running for elected positions. I hope by interning in the nation’s capital, I can either reaffirm or negate these new career dreams which will in turn help me establish what industry I want to go into after graduation. If anything, this internship gives me the opportunity to gain experience in a place and business that may otherwise be very exclusive. This experience also gives me something to show and talk about with my potential future employers. With my love for our country’s history and my desire to advocate for my beliefs to make it better, I believe that D.C. is the area to combine both of these passions to institute change in our country.

There are many encounters I’ve had in my life that have made me into the person I am today. In high school, I was a varsity cheer captain which taught me a lot on what a good leader should look like. I gained experience in conflict resolution and working as a team member that I’ve carried with me into both academic and career-orientated aspects of my life. My previous work experience in the fast food and retail industries has also provided me with skills valuable in any workspace: good communication, time management, adaptability, and friendliness. Although, I haven’t had the most leadership roles in my time here at Penn State, that doesn’t mean I shouldn’t be considered someone with lack of experience or ability – rather, this gives a

company the ability to mold me into the leader that they want working and representing them. At the end of the day, I have a positive outlook on life and everything in it, meaning I don't let the little things weigh me down. Ultimately, allowing me to achieve things I never dreamed that I could have.

After doing research on what internships are available to college students in the Washington D.C. area, I found three broad areas of interest: government offices, lobbying firms, and not for profit organizations. I feel that these three industries are a good fit for someone majoring in Public Relations as they all require communication with other organizations along with the general public. The skills that I have currently, along with the skills that I have yet to learn, set me up for success in these areas. These industries are also a good fit because I have smaller, important interest within these broad categories as well. I'm interested in government offices because my experiences there will help me to confirm whether or not I want to add a Political Science minor to my degree and effectively determine if my dream career lies within the political atmosphere. I'm interested in interning for a lobbying firm because I feel as though they have a direct correlation with the bills and proposals that the government takes into consideration on a daily basis. If I worked on a bill that was signed into law, I would feel empowered knowing that a small action of mine impacted the whole of society. I'm interested in gaining experience in the not for profit field because I can already identify numerous organizations that align with my moral values and beliefs. If I were not to intern for someone or something I believed in, it would challenge me to expand my perspective on various issues which then in turn will provide me with experiences I can apply to almost any aspect of my life as people have varying opinions.

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Essay #2

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### The Importance of Women in Society

Before Hillary Clinton was the presidential candidate that we know her as today, she was simply President Clinton's wife and consequently the First Lady of the United States. One major event that set Clinton in the direction of her own political career was her speech, "Women's Rights are Human Rights," delivered on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 1995 at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. The running theme of the Fourth World Conference was "Action for Equality, Development, and Peace," focusing specifically on women's rights violations and gender discrimination. At first, Clinton was strongly encouraged to avoid the conference because her attendance as First Lady might have suggested support for communist China from the United States. After her refusal to back down to Congress, Clinton was then told to change her speech to something less provocative in order to prevent offending the Chinese due to their inferior treatment of women at the time. Once all conflicts surrounding the speech were settled, Clinton got her way and delivered the speech she had originally prepared. Other key speakers who attended the conference included Tanzanian activist Gertrude Mongella, Burmese politician Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as Mother Theresa. Clinton's speech was delivered to a live audience formed by delegates from over 180 countries – most of whom were women. Her speech was also recorded and televised during the conference, meaning that her words could be heard globally through radio and television. Clinton's target audience in regard to her speech were

those, both men and women, who claimed that women's issues were not important to society. Hillary Clinton's speech about women's rights presented to the United Nations Fourth Annual World Conference on Women Plenary Session uses Clinton's knowledge of the audience, language, authority, and several other rhetorical devices to persuade her listeners to realize the role women play in society, and as a result, the true importance of women's health and safety around the world (Eidenmuller, Michael E.).

In the beginning of her speech, Hillary justifies why she is more than qualified to discuss women's health and safety due to her experience not only with discussing issues with other women as the First Lady and an experienced family lawyer, but also by being a woman herself. Examples of this can be found in the speech when Clinton addresses that she has been involved with issues relating to women, children, and families for the past twenty-five years and had spent the last two and a half years traveling to learn more about the challenges facing women both in the United States and around the world. Clinton also reveals to the audience that earlier, on the day of her speech, "I participated in a World Health Organization forum. In that forum, we talked about ways that government officials, NGOs, and individual citizens are working to address the health problems of women and girls," which educates the audience of her previous participation in the health and safety of women. She then tells the audience that, "Tomorrow I will attend a gathering of the United Nations Development Fund for Women. There, the discussion will focus on local, and highly successful, programs that give hard-working women access to credit so they can improve their own lives and the lives of their families." By providing this information to the crowd, Clinton is using ethical criteria as an approach to convince the listeners that her credibility and her character should not be called into question and therefore the

information given in her speech can be found to hold truth and provide reliability because of her time spent dedicated to the issue at hand: women's rights (Eidenmuller, Michael E.).

Throughout her speech, Hillary Clinton also provides her audience with facts and statistics that can be used to help the listeners better understand why it is that women are dramatically undervalued and underappreciated within various societies worldwide. The facts provided go hand-in-hand with helping Clinton to establish the tone of her speech – formal but also straightforward along with both serious and firm. Examples of such facts can be found in the speech as Clinton states, “Women comprise more than half the world’s population, seventy percent of the world’s poor, and two-thirds of those who are not taught to read and write.” Hillary further states, “We [women] are the primary caretakers for most of the world’s children and elderly, yet much of the work we do is not valued - not by economist, not by historians, not by popular culture, not by government leaders.” The use of enumeration, the action of mentioning a number of objects as one, and repetition draws emphasis on the importance and depth of this specific sentence. This approach, additionally, can be used to prove the importance of women within society while also showing the audience members that women are not given credit for the work that they do in order to make the world a better place not just for themselves, but for everyone (Eidenmuller, Michael E.).

Clinton also uses other persuasive criteria throughout her speech in order to convince listeners that women will never reach their full, God-given potential in the world unless they are given and treated with the same respect as men. Clinton gives descriptions of the different women and mothers that she has witnessed and had the opportunity to talk to on her travels stating, “I have met new mothers in Indonesia, who come together regularly in their village to discuss nutrition, family planning, and baby care. I have met working parents in Denmark who

talk about the comfort they feel in knowing that their children can be cared for in safe and nurturing after-school centers. I have met women in South Africa who helped lead the struggle to end apartheid and are now helping to build a new democracy. I have met with the leading women of my own hemisphere who are working every day to promote literacy and better health care for children in their countries. I have met women in India and Bangladesh who are taking out small loans to buy milk cows, or rickshaws, or thread in order to create a livelihood for themselves and their families. I have met doctors and nurses in Belarus and Ukraine who are trying to keep children alive in the aftermath of Chernobyl.” These women come from an assortment of backgrounds and have developed careers in various fields. These women help to receive the audience's empathy due to how hard they work to provide for themselves and their families without ever really receiving any credit. Clinton also describes some of the rights that women are being deprived of, such as the denial of the right to go to school, forced prostitution, the barring of women from bank lending offices, and banning from the voting booth – these are rights that many people take for granted every day. As she closes her speech, Clinton also describes in great detail the gruesome ways women’s safety is violated in today’s society, which includes the murder of newborns because they are born female, the selling of women into slavery and prostitution for money, the use of gasoline to set women on fire for the purpose of death, the rape of women as a tactic or prize of war, the increase in domestic violence, and the use of genital mutilation in order to demand submission. By providing her audience with vivid details of what women go through on a daily basis, Hillary evokes sympathy for women and encourages her audience to protect those who have a large-scale impact in the world. Furthermore, Hillary directly calls the audience itself into action, stating “Those of us who have the opportunity to be here have the responsibility to speak for those who could not.” This statement causes the

audience to feel personally connected and engaged in what Hillary has to say about women's rights and the actions she is asking them to take (Eidenmuller, Michael E.).

In "Women's Rights are Human Rights," Hillary Clinton uses various approaches such as language, tone, and rhetorical devices throughout her speech to influence her audience to reevaluate the importance of women, their safety, and their health across the globe. After hearing this speech, audience members were overall better informed of the impacts that everyday women have in society and therefore could now better judge how the world could only be improved if women were to be given the same rights and provided with the same respect as their male counterparts. Although women still aren't seen as complete equals almost 25 years later, Clinton technically achieved her goal of the speech, which can be seen during the conference's ending, with Beijing, China eventually declaring their support for women's equality and empowerment. Clinton's speech did not change the world and it certainly did not revolutionize the way our society looks at and thinks about women. What does matter, is that this speech was an important step in the right direction – a direction that leads to true equality for all.

## Works Cited

Eidenmuller, Michael E. "American Rhetoric: Hillary Rodham Clinton -- United Nations 4th World Conference Speech ("Women's Rights are Human Rights")." American Rhetoric: Hillary Rodham Clinton -- United Nations 4th World Conference Speech ("Women's Rights are Human Rights"). N.p., n.d. Web. 04 Apr. 2017.