

## ENGLISH: *LANGUAGE ANALYSIS*

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“Casey the Punisher tells of Bullying”, written by the staff members of courimail.com.au, tells the story of Casey Heynes; another typical teenager fallen victim to high school bullying. The authors reveal the incident as a whole, not only comment and demonstrate their biased opinion on the incident itself, but gives the audience an insight on Casey Heynes and how his actions, however wrong physical abuse may be, are justified due to his “tormented” past. Written not long after the incident occurred, this article was published onto its website on the 21st of March, 2011, in which it primarily focuses on utilising specific techniques, which will ultimately not only turn the audience in favour of Casey, but sympathise or even empathise and relate to Casey’s many hardships that he endured for most of his teenage life. The authors use word connotation, a photograph prior to the written portion of the article, and many direct references from the teenager himself, reiterating Casey Heynes’ need to finally take a stand, in order for him to continue his life happily.

In the text, the authors specifically choose to engage in the use of exaggerated emotive language, in order to persuade the audience to sympathise with Casey. An example of this being demonstrated is specifically evident when the authors overplay the emotional wording, revealing Casey’s torment by bullies and how he was “abandoned” by his high school friends and “was picked on every day”. Both of these lines demonstrate and reiterate Casey’s struggle prior to his final stand against bullies. These specific quotes from the article are used to not only convince the audience to feel sorry for Casey, but to also influence them to understand Casey’s actions, and why they were reasonable. This is also clear when it is mentioned that Casey was “...taunted because of his weight...” This again reiterates that the authors are again striving to gain sympathy, however this time they have used a factor in which many people can relate to. By mentioning Casey’s weight, this automatically gains empathy and the support from all the readers who at some stage in their lives were overweight, or picked on for being so. In addition to the sympathetic language used in this article, the authors have also chosen to incorporate an image specific to the incident into their written piece.

At the very beginning of this piece of writing, a large image is found of Casey “body slamming the tormentor into the concrete”. Originally, the photograph is used to draw in the readers’ attention, demonstrating the peak of the fight in which Casey is seen standing up to his aggressor. This is the most interesting part of the video itself, and is captured in a still image to demonstrate what occurred in the confrontation. This does not necessarily gain the audience’s approval, but obtains their interest in the article, thus leading them to the truth of Casey’s story. Subsequently to the image, the bullying incident is explained. Although the photograph displays Casey severely injuring a smaller classmate, it is in fact the “15-year-old from Chifley College” finally defending himself against a bully who was cruelly harassing him. Casey is the main focal point of the image, found directly in the centre of the screen shot of the video. This allows the reader to recognise that the piece will concentrate primarily on Casey, and inform the audience of what actually took place at the college. Although the image gained the initial attention of the audience, the article which specific quotes from the teenager, which assists the audience in actually connecting with Casey and perhaps even feeling what he feels.

Throughout the article, the authors make Casey’s story known, especially by directly referencing the high school student. This is particularly obvious when Casey builds up the courage to finally express his past bullying experiences, letting his audience know from his mouth that: “I have been duct-taped to a pole...” and how “I kept putting myself down to that level” when the bullying continued to reoccur. By including these quotes from Casey, the readers are not only told of the horrible things that he has gone through in his childhood, but almost feel as if they are deeply connecting with Casey on a higher level. Casey also informs the reader of what actually took place prior to the video being recorded: “He just came up out of nowhere and grabbed me by the shirt and then he punched me in the face.” This particular quote not only notifies the reader of the bully’s actions, but provides them with the real story straight from the victim himself. The insight given by Casey works in his

favour, allowing the audience to really feel what Casey has undergone in his life. Overall, the quoting used in the text helps the audience to see the situation from Casey's perspective; which is all he really wanted to achieve.

In his piece, the author highly pities Casey and what has taken place in his childhood. He particularly places emphasis on word connotation, photographs and quotes all in his favour. The piece exploits these aids which capture the audience's attention, and, without them realising, automatically persuading them to side with Casey and feel sorry for him. This ultimately leaves them in the position in which they feel Casey's physical actions were necessary for his well being.