**A Cross-Analysis of Artifacts Regarding Genetic Genealogy and the Golden State Killer**

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Technology has been used for solving crimes for decades now and the continued technological advancements haven't ceased to prove much more efficient in catching criminals. The most recent and revolutionary addition to crime-solving technology is genetic genealogy. Genetic genealogy involves inserting DNA into a database that then creates a familial match between the perpetrator of the crime and their distant relatives who have submitted DNA to websites such as Ancestry.com or GEDmatch. This allows law enforcement to link the familial match back to the DNA found at the crime scene and arrest the suspect. This essay will present information in favor of the use of genetic genealogy in solving crimes and explain how substantive it is for the future of forensic science. I will do this specifically by going over the Golden State Killer case. Additionally, I will analyze and highlight the use of the different rhetorical appeals used throughout my resources "The Golden State Killer Investigation and the Nascent Field of Forensic Genealogy" by Chris Phillips and "The Golden State Killer" by Kendall Rae.

**Artifact 1: “The Golden State Killer Investigation and the Nascent Field of Forensic Genealogy” by Chris Phillips**

The author's purpose in writing this text is to provide a clear argument on why genetic genealogy is important amidst an ongoing conversation regarding whether genetic genealogy is the future of solving crimes. He aims to make his voice and opinion clear to the rest of the forensics community as he outlines his rationale. Chris Phillips also maintains his credibility as a valid source for this argument, as although he does not specifically detail his own experience with genetic genealogy, he is an accredited member within the field of forensics. Specifically, Phillips is a researcher in forensic genetics and has experience working at the Forensics Genetics Unit, the Institute of Forensic Science, and at the University of Santiago de Compostela. Additionally, Phillips has written numerous academic papers regarding forensics, all of which classify him as a qualified source of information.

The first artifact goes into detail regarding how the golden state killer was caught using genetic genealogy. The author doesn't go into the depth of the case but instead focuses on how the use of genetic genealogy in solving the case was revolutionary for the future of genetic genealogy and how it should be used to solve more cases in the future. He then discusses how the process of genetic genealogy works and how the DNA database can find familial matches. The genre of this artifact is an article is a peer-reviewed academic text. Its intended audience is fellow academics and people within the branch of forensic science. It is not informal or meant to be read by the average citizen with an interest in forensics. Additionally, to strengthen his argument, Phillips relies on the use of rhetorical appeals throughout this paper. He specifically utilizes logos and ethos as a constant, while pathos appears to be absent as although he demonstrates bias, it is an academic text, and he enhances his points through logic and ethics. When Phillips is referencing genomes used in DNA profiling to gain a familial match (Phillips para 2.) as well as "The jump from 24 A-STRs and 27 Y-STRs to more than 650,000 SNPs" (Phillips para. 7) he is using logos and logic to present very factual and informative data. This genre of this article, being an academic text, mainly focuses the rhetorical appeals, logos, and ethos. The use of logos and the information provided above specifically is meant to enhance and provide logical reasoning explaining not only how genetic genealogy works but also explains how it has advanced and why it is essential for the field of forensics. As stated, prior, this text also emphasizes the use of ethos. At one point in the article, the author states, "...transparency is a crucial factor in preserving user’s trust and those who are not concerned about distant relatives being detected by police must be free to continue exploring their personal data" (Phillips para. 3). This is important to note because there is a large ethical dilemma around genetic genealogy and the invasion of privacy through law enforcement's access to DNA. Phillips uses ethos to explain why it is ethical to continue to use genetic genealogy as the previous quote relates to websites making users aware of possible access to their DNA by law enforcement when necessary. However, there are some constraints to this article because it is an academic text, so it is not as accessible to the general public and is less readable to people who do not have as good of an understanding of forensic science and genetic genealogy.

**Artifact 2: “The Golden State Killer” by Kendall Rae**

The second artifact mainly focuses on the case of the golden state killer and less about genetic genealogy. Throughout this artifact, Rae goes much more into detail regarding the backstory of the golden state killer (Joseph James DeAngelo) and the spree of crimes that he would go on to commit. The purpose of this video is to inform the public about the golden state killer and in the end, explain how genetic genealogy was used to solve the case and why it is important. Kendall Rae is a valid source of information because she is a true crime consumer, just like her audience. She goes does in-depth research about cases and relays that to her audience so that they can learn about cases without having to do a deep search of the information themselves. Additionally, in certain cases, she interviews family members of the victims whose story she tells in order to give further insight into the victim as well as the crime, making her a valid second-hand source of information.

This video has a much different audience as it is not nearly as formal as the prior artifact. The audience of this artifact is aimed at an average person that is interested in learning about the golden state killer and how he was eventually caught. Because the genre of this artifact is a video, it allows for more affordances because it is so much more accessible to broader audiences, contrasting that of the first artifact. The author also conveys her argument by refencing rhetorical appeals. Specifically, she refers to both ethos and pathos in this article and she emphasizes the harm caused by DeAngelo and why genetic genealogy is important for catching other heinous criminals like him. She specifically mentions ethos by appealing to the ethical senses of the viewers as she discusses all the awful crimes committed. Rae does this by emphasizing how unethical and wrong the actions of DeAngelo are, making the only rational response to agree with what she is saying. She specifically does this consistently throughout the video as she is referencing the different crimes he commits. Rae also uses pathos by appealing to the emotions of the viewers saying, "I can't imagine how traumatic this would be for both people affected by this terrible crime" as well as emphasizing how petrifying it must have been to be attacked in your own home (referencing the golden state killer’s earlier crime spree where he committed approximately 50 rapes). By not only telling the stories of the victims but by expressing her feelings and anguish over the case, it helps the readers empathize more with the golden state killer's victims in addition to learning about them.

**Compare and Contrast**

It is apparent technology has been quite efficient in assisting law enforcement in solving crimes and it only continues to be a more prevalent source of assistance. People can learn about genetic genealogy and its impact on solving crime through cases that have been solved using genetic genealogy, specifically the golden state killer case. This case, as well as the hundreds of other cases solved because of technological advancements, can be learned about through numerous genres, which appeal to differing audiences. Using the artifacts used in this paper as an example, the two genres and their audiences differ as the first artifact is a formal article aimed at academics and students studying criminology, while the second artifact is a much more informal video which appeals to the average consumer of true crime. The audiences of the artifacts that were used do contrast as mentioned previously, since artifact 1 is an academic text, there are constraints to the audience as it is intended for people that already have a background in forensics and understand genetic genealogy. Artifact 2 has more affordances as it appeals to a much broader audience because it is on a much more accessible platform, and you do not need to have any prior understanding of the subject to watch the video. Other contrasts between the two artifacts are their contrasting conventions. The conventions of the first artifact include quotes and headlines while the conventions of artifact two include cameras and the editing technique. This also relates because the conventions differ as a result of the artifact's differing genres. However, the main contrast lies in the content of the artifacts. The first artifact focuses more on genetic genealogy as a whole and less on the golden state killer case, while the second artifact more heavily focuses on the case with a much smaller emphasis on genetic genealogy (although both points are mentioned in both artifacts). Both these artifacts do still draw comparisons however as they are both clearly biased in favor of the use of genetic genealogy. They give a clear explanation of what genetic genealogy is the definition only differs in complexity because of the different audiences.

Overall, I would say that artifact 1 was very efficient in providing a strong case on why genetic genealogy is important and how it can continue to be beneficial to other cases. Artifact 2 is more efficient in explaining the case of the golden state killer, which acted as a catalyst to fuel the field of genetic genealogy. These two artifacts in collaboration with each other act the most efficient as they provide in detail what the other artifact lacks. Since they have different intended audiences, when these two resources are used together, they create an even broader general audience and allow for much more affordances.

**Works Cited**

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