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Drowning Awareness and Prevention

Drowning is a pressing issue that is commonly overlooked and pushed to the back of our minds as many think that tragedy will never strike so close to home when in reality drowning is one of the top causes of death in children every year. The sources that I have chosen to support my topic contain what occurs internally in the case of a drowning, what bystanders should do, drowning prevention methods, statistics and effects of both fatal and nonfatal drowning. My research has helped me to discover that over 360,000 people die from drowning every year, and there are still those who are negatively affected for the rest of their lives in result of a nonfatal drowning. This grossly large number could have been significantly smaller with something as simple as supervision. Constant supervision as well as extra safety precautions like pool gating and swim lessons can prevent a drowning and possibly save a life. My senior year of high school, I plan to work as a lifeguard so I can assist in the prevention of drowning and also spread awareness and raise money to help children who cannot afford swim lessons and donate it to the Drowning Prevention Foundation.

"Infant drownings up by 30pc." *Australian* [National, Australia], 16 Sept. 2015, p. 12. *Opposing*

Viewpoints in Context,

link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/A428655727/OVIC?u=chandler_main&xid=2e069046.

Accessed 26 Nov. 2017.

“A FEW SIMPLE SAFETY PRECAUTIONS CAN HELP PREVENT ACCIDENTAL

DROWNINGS, SAY THE I.I.I.” *States News Service*, 7 July 2010. *Academic OneFile*,

go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?

p=AONE&sw=w&u+chandler_main&v=2.1&id=GALE%7CA230891049&it=r&asid=1

d10e87bcb29998687c80f2471525bda. Accessed 31 Oct. 2017.

“Brenan’s Story” Banner Children’s drowning awareness

In the article [Brenan’s Story](#) released by the Banner Children’s hospital, the idea that we can take such a tragedy as drowning and educate others so that they don’t have to go through the challenges it presents is developed. Beginning with sharing the plans that Brenan and his family had for the future, his mother shows us that drowning is sudden and unexpected. She uses this tragedy to convey to everyone that even if you think that drowning won’t be an issue, never dismiss the thought. Brenan’s Mom says, “I was always hyper vigilant around pools but it never occurred to me to take the boys over to the canal and explain how dangerous it was. My thought was out of sight... out of mind...” Her purpose is to educate anyone and everyone who will listen in effort to prevent such a tragedy from happening again. Her tone is solemn yet straightforward in order to get her point across to the audience and she ends with a message of hope for others, as she tries to educate and prevent this tragedy for anyone else.

“Drowning Prevention: Information for Parents.” *HealthyChildren.org*,

[www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/injuries-emergencies/Pages/Drowning.as](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/injuries-emergencies/Pages/Drowning.aspx)

[px](http://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/injuries-emergencies/Pages/Drowning.aspx).

In the informational article [Drowning Prevention: Information for Parents](#), by pediatricians from the American Academy of Pediatrics at healthychildren.org, the idea that children are not “drown-proof” and supervision is the key to keeping children safe is developed through pool safety precautions, and what a parent should do in the case of a drowning. Beginning with statistics of children’s drowning cases and later mentioning the serious problems that a nonfatal drowning may induce after the child has been rescued, the parental instinct to want to keep a child safe is urged to kick in. They use the strategy of fear and then list prevention methods as a way to get parents actively wanting to eliminate any means by which a child may drown and follow the safety precautions provided. Pediatricians say, “Swimming lessons should not be considered as a way to “drown-proof” your child.” which supports the idea that supervision is the way that your child will remain safe. This article is mainly being provided for parents but any guardian or supervisor could benefit from knowing these facts. The tone that is used is mostly urgent and demanding, to be straightforward with the audience to get them to take the safety precautions and hopefully prevent any childhood drownings that they can.

“Water Safety Tips.” *No Kids Drown*, drowningpreventionfoundation.com/water-safety-tips/.

“6 Reasons Why Your Child Should Learn To Swim.” *Swimming World News*, 30 Nov. 2015, www.swimmingworldmagazine.com/news/6-reasons-your-child-should-swim/.

“Violence and Injury Prevention.” *World Health Organization*, World Health Organization, www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/en/.

In the visual representation of drowning statistics by the World Health Organization the idea that “drowning is an under-recognized global public health issue” is illustrated. By first showing key facts about drowning, the audience is alerted by the harsh truth that is often overlooked. Various strategies are being used such as pathos, because the tragic truths of drowning play a role in how far one will go in preventing it. For Example the WHO uses the fact, “Drowning is the THIRD leading cause of death for children aged 5-14 years” Many parents have children in this age range and this fact will pull on their emotions. The “third” is big and impossible to miss, stressing the importance and proving a point. The purpose of this visual is to bring to light the truths about drowning that we often overlook or push the thoughts to the back of our minds. This visual is mainly for parent and guardians who will be able to relate with their own children and therefore be effected out of fear or precaution. At the bottom of the visual, six prevention methods are given for the readers to act on after they have read the facts at the top. The WHO skillfully used pathos to get the most effective response to their point that drowning is an under-recognized global issue.

Szpilman, David, et al. “Drowning — NEJM.” *New England Journal of Medicine*, 31 May 2012, www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMra1013317?rss=searchAndBrowse&#t=article.

In the informational article titled Drowning by David Szpilman, M.D., and three others from NEJM, all of the facts of drowning including pathophysiology, rescue and resuscitation, effects and prevention are presented. Beginning with the statistics, including number of deaths and number of nonfatal drownings, the audience is prompted to make a change to this

shockingly high number. Once again, Pathos is used to get to the emotions of the readers so that they will feel the need to take up new safety precautions. For example, it is stated, "...this lasts for no more than about a minute." referencing how long one can hold one's breath until water gets into the airways and consequences arise. This strongly urges audiences to supervise children so that this is never a problem for them. The overall purpose of this article is to inform audiences of what is happening in the case of a drowning and how they personally can help to prevent it. The main audience of this reading is parents or guardians, so that they will take extra safety precautions and downsize the statistics that were tragically large. Which is how the article is ended, with ways that readers may prevent all of the information listed before from happening.