

ARGUMENTATION & ADVOCACY

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FEATURED ARTICLES

The Eating Disordered Lifestyle: Imagetexts and the Performance of Similitude Robin E. Jensen 1

Discourse in support of the eating disordered "lifestyle" is grounded in the belief that eating disorders are lifestyle choices rather than diseases, a claim that is counter to popular and medical opinion. I analyze how the images and text on two "lifestyle" websites work together as "imagetexts" to make the unreasonable appear reasonable. Lifestyle imagetexts argue for similitude between the lifestyle philosophy and mainstream culture by mimicking culturally accepted symbols and self-consciously drawing attention to this mimicry. In this way, lifestyle imagetexts may be understood as performances of the contradictions in mainstream rhetoric rather than rational arguments about them.

Key words: visual argument, argumentation, imagetext, gender, eating disorder

Family Communication Patterns and Competitor Satisfaction: A National Survey of Collegiate Forensics Participants David E. Williams and Patrick C. Hughes 19

This study explores the relationships among collegiate forensic competitors' reported family communication patterns, parental knowledge of their forensic activities, and family communication satisfaction. Correlation (two-tailed) and multiple regression analyses suggest: (1) students tend to have more satisfying communication with their parents when students perceive that their parents know more about their participation in forensics; and (2) socio-oriented family communication patterns may better foster forensics competitors than do concept-oriented patterns. We discuss implications of these findings for family communication and forensics competitor satisfaction.

Key words: forensics, family communication, communication satisfaction

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