

# Blackfish

*by* Nasser Alfahaid

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FILE	BLACKFISH_FINAL_ESSAY.DOCX (17.28K)		
TIME SUBMITTED	18-SEP-2016 09:43PM	WORD COUNT	872
SUBMISSION ID	707163961	CHARACTER COUNT	4370


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Ms. Roberts

English 105

19 September 2016

*Blackfish*  1

The starting point for creating the documentary thriller *Blackfish* served the fate of the killer whale (orca) male named Tilikum. In 2010, he killed a female trainer, who worked with him at SeaWorld in Orlando (Florida, USA). This incident and the movie present a rigorous study of the psychology of organized beings, one of the bitterest films about the enslavement of animals by human and a powerful argument against dolphinariums. Aspiring filmmaker Gabriela Cowperthwaite skillfully and with obvious pain tells the story, the relevance of which encourages humanity begins to realize the seriousness of the exploitation of animals that would not voluntarily agreed to participate in a show for the gratification of human vanity. In this sense, *Blackfish* is a movie of the future. Also filmmaker interview some big names in sea world Dave Duffus, John Jeff and Mark Simmon. This tragedy served as a catalyst for an active discussion of the problems associated with the maintenance of orcas in captivity and their use in the entertainment industry  2

In nature, there were no recorded attacks of killer whales on humans, but in captivity they happen regularly. The film covers different aspects of this question and draws the viewer's attention to the conditions in which animals are kept, and which have repeatedly led to the tragic

outcome when a killer whale attacked a man. The film was released in early 2013 and created a great resonance in the world community.

Film unrolls time back to 1970, by encountering the commercials of Sea World, masking servitude to Disneyland, with the amateur recordings of emergency situations, not previously involved in media. Then began the large-scale hunting of whales for their future use in the parks water rides. The chronicle of the hunting of baby whales could be compared to genocide: man intervenes the established social relationships of the killer whales, ignoring the fact that their ties are much stronger than human's ones. It turns out that they are so attached to their children that under natural conditions the children-occas never leave their mothers, despite the fact that some females can live in the wild for up to 100 years. In captivity the children are separated from their mothers and are sold to other parks. The story in the *Blackfish*, being based on one of the occasions, breaks the hearts and leads to such confusion, against which even the most tragic scene is dimming.

The story stacks the public focus, as well as a documentary film is built on the realistic facts. The great animals, killer whales, whose weight can reach up to 5 tons, are kept in the water parks around the world and in dolphinariums. Since 1977, the journalists conducted an investigation, gathering the facts of the attack of the killer whales on trainers in water parks. In captivity, after the show, they are kept in the narrow (6 to 9 meters) dark pools. It is shown how orcas are crying and screaming being actually imprisoned. They often attack each other, as they are dumped to the park from the completely different territorial waters. The film contains many interviews of those who caught the orcas, and those who trained them in water parks in America. Spending the entire life in a concrete tank, while their friends swim up to 150 miles per day in

the wild ocean, the orcas begin to attack people because of their frustration and despair, not being able to vent the anger and hurt in any other way.

*The Blackfish* displays how a clash with the tragedy leads the involved people to an awareness, and make them to rethink their actions and to contribute the serious changes in the world and repent of what they had dedicated their lives. Commenting on the incident, the authors reinforce their position by not only the figures which refute all the positive facts of domestication of these animals (particularly the common misconception that captivated orcas allegedly live longer), but by the heartbreaking footage of orca aggression against their oppressors. This is the movie that makes the auditory crying and at the same time arouses the anger. This is the film of the active citizenship, which overturned the idea of an American audience about the nature of this kind of entertainment. In any case, many of the more than 200 thousand people in the U.S., who were watching it in theaters, have sworn that they would never ever go on a show that exploits animals.

Simple in its clarity, the image of drooped dorsal fin of Tilikum is not just the marker reflecting the physical distress from staying (and without exception) of killer whales in captivity, but also the strongest by its emotionality symbol of slavery and of the subordination of one living being to another, once imagines himself the master of nature. This film show that animals, orcas in particular, also have a soul and feelings, and can suffer from loneliness, rage, and anger, reacting on what the men cause to them. The film provoked the protests of activists who believe that the exploitation of some of the smartest living creatures on Earth could not be called otherwise then as the shameful legalized slavery.



### FINAL GRADE

70 /100

### GENERAL COMMENTS

#### Instructor

Nasser,

I really think that your command of English is good, and this is a coherently written and thoughtful essay about the documentary we watched. However, it is not a rhetorical analysis, which is what was assigned.

The most grievous issue in this essay is that you do not really frame the writing in our discussion of appeals and rhetoric. You need to consider each type of appeal--logos, ethos, and pathos--and discuss how Cowperthwaite uses them to prove her own points about SeaWorld's business practices and its treatment of both its animals and its employees.

Additionally, there are none of the required direct quotations and in-text citations that this paper was working to introduce you to. Please review the assignment sheet and the Rhetorical Analysis sample to see what I mean by this.



#### MLA Document Design: Edit Header

MLA Document Design

Please manually edit the header, making sure that it is Times New Roman, size 12.0, standard to the rest of the essay.



#### Comment 1

Creative and original essay title?



**Sp.** This word is misspelled. Use a dictionary or spellchecker when you proofread your work.



**Verb** This verb may be incorrect. Proofread the sentence to make sure you have used the correct form of the verb.



**Missing ","** You may need to place a comma after this word.



**Article Error** You may need to use an article before this word.



**Proofread** This part of the sentence contains a grammatical error or misspelled word that makes your meaning unclear.



### Comment 2

The thesis needs to be more specific and mention proofs or appeals or even all three of them specifically. Think about your thesis as a road-map, and it must set up the overall organization for the rest of the essay.

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