

Student Name

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LNG 321-2

January 24, 2011

Rhetorical Analysis – *Jesus Camp*

① Hook, lead, grabber

C.S. Lewis once wrote, "The worst attitude of all would be the professional attitude which regards children as a sort of raw material which we have to handle" (34). Although children require various forms of schooling during their formative years, Lewis' implication is that sometimes adults take their educational role too far. As a result, young people find themselves unable to make their own choices, thus discovering an inability to problem solve and handle disappointment. But even more frightening than this is when adult "education" crosses the line and manifests itself as calculated brainwashing. Consider history. One of Hitler's primary tactics for the annihilation of the Jews was indoctrinating children with Neo-Nazi ideology. This would ensure longevity of the movement, and ultimately, his position of power. In addition, Communist nations indoctrinate children with Communist ideology for the very same reason. Thus, the documentary *Jesus Camp*, directed and produced by Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady, uses emotional and ethical appeal to convince the viewing audience that a Fundamentalist Christian summer camp—one which proclaims that they "want to see young people...radically laying down their lives for the Gospel as they are over in Pakistan, in Israel, and in Palestine and in all those different places"—is a dangerous environment for the young, impressionable mind of a child.

② Context connecting hook with thesis

③ Thesis