

THESIS: Todd Davidson builds an argument to persuade his audience that the national parks are worth saving and funding using evidence, reasoning and emotional appeals.

Brainstorm on this topic: Write an essay in which you explain how Todd Davidson builds an argument to persuade his audience that the national parks are worth saving and funding. In your essay, analyze how Davidson uses one or more of the features listed in the box above (or features of your own choice) to strengthen the logic and persuasiveness of his argument. Be sure that your analysis focuses on the most relevant features of the passage. Your essay should not explain whether you agree with Davidson's claims, but rather explain how Davidson builds an argument to persuade his audience.

ETHOS - evidence, such as facts or examples, to support claims.

LOGOS -reasoning to develop ideas and to connect claims and evidence.

PATHOS - stylistic or persuasive elements, such as word choice or appeals to emotion, to add power to the ideas expressed.

Paragraph #1 Evidence (Ethos)	#2 Reasoning (Logos)	#3 Stylistic Elements (Pathos)
Topic Sentence: Davidson contends that the national parks are affordable and recoup the money spent to maintain them.	Topic Sentence: The author also argues that the national park system is a source of pride and can be an economic engine to create jobs.	Topic Sentence: Davidson uses descriptive language and appeals to emotion to make his argument.
Fact/Example #1: First, he argues that many people go to parks because it is a fairly cheap way to vacation.	Reason(ing) #1: For example, he contends that together our parks represent who and what we are as a nation:	Stylistic Element #1: First, he states Americans are in a long love affair with the national parks.
Every year over 300 million people visit national parks. They spend over \$30 billion dollars to add to the local economies. Quote/paraphrase	QUOTE: "Collectively, our national parks, monuments, seashores, recreation areas, historic sites, military parks, battlefields and heritage areas represent the very best our nation has to offer." Quote/paraphrase	QUOTE: "Who among us has not stared into the deep blue caldera of Crater Lake . . ."
All this economic activity is because of the parks. So we should maintain them and not cut funding, according to Davidson. Explain quote	He concludes that the parks are part of our national identity and we need to maintain them for that reason alone. Explain quote	He invokes the beauty and splendor of the parks and places his readers may have been to appeal to their emotions.
Fact/Example #2: The Author cites President Obama as a credible source.	Reason(ing) #2: The national parks are a cornerstone of our economy.	Stylistic Element #2: Next, Davidson uses figurative language to make his case for saving and funding the national parks.
Quote/paraphrase	List some statistics: \$1.8 trillion in economic output and supports 14 million American jobs, every dollar invested in the National Park Service generates \$10 in economic activity. Quote/paraphrase	For instance, He refers to Park Rangers using alliteration when he calls them "intrepid and iconic"
Explain quote	Explain quote	He also uses loaded language by calling the funding of the parks "a national priority."
Fact/Example #3: The parks are at risk due to budget cuts. Tie to topic sentence	Reason(ing) #3: The author further argues that the parks can and will continue to draw people from all over the world. Tie to topic sentence	Stylistic Element #3: Furthermore, he also uses figurative language when he points out the irony of what a great investment our parks are for the overall health and future of our country.
Quote/paraphrase	He writes: "Our national parks can play an important role in making the U.S. a top travel destination."	He proves his point by claiming that regardless of what we spend on the parks, they generate a lot of money: "1.8 trillion in economic output and 14 million American jobs"
Explain quote	Explain quote	Who wouldn't want to support the parks after reading this argument? It is ironic that money is cut from such a profitable place.

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