

Staysniak's Body of Argument Outline & Draft

Body of Argument

Claim #1: Antonio acted courageously by attending a school that was linguistically and culturally different than anything he had previously experienced.

Criteria #1: Risked something of extraordinary value; his pride.

Evidence: After experiencing two embarrassing moments (being laughed at in front of the class and being laughed at for his lunch) Antonio almost "loses" it. ("A huge lump seemed to form in my throat and tears came to my eyes." "The pain and sadness seemed to spread to my soul, and I felt for the first time what the grown-ups call *la triseta de la vida*.")

Warrant: A courageous act requires that the individual risk something of value. In this case, Antonio risked his pride in attending a school where he did not speak the language nor was he knowledgeable about the customs. Antonio's father's pride in having the "llano" or plains as his school gave Antonio a similar pride in his background as a Chicano. For Antonio, being laughed at by the other students in his class damaged Antonio's perception of himself and his family. To endure this damage, this hurt, and carry on in school so that he could make his family proud, took courage on Antonio's part. A young-person without courage would have simply not returned to this school so that the pain and humiliation of having one's background misunderstood could be avoided altogether.

Claim #2: Antonio acted courageously by attending a school that was linguistically and culturally different than anything he had previously experienced.

Criteria #2: He was aware of the risks even before entering the school building.

Evidence: "When I got to Main Street I was astounded. It seemed as if a million kids were shoutingruntngpushingcrying their way to school. For a long time I was held hypnotized by the thundering herd, then with a cry of resolution exploding from my throat I rushed into the melee."

Warrant: For an act to be courageous, the actor must be aware of the risks involved. In this case, Antonio was self-admittedly "hypnotized" by the huge numbers of children making their way to the school. Antonio was able to survey the scene before entering into the, as he calls it, "melee." Without courage, Antonio would have simply remained in that position as a bystander; or Antonio may have turned around and gone home. By using a fictitious word compounding several verbs, author Rudolfo Anaya creates the impression on readers that Antonio is aware of the many behaviors of the other children. A cry of "resolution" implies that, despite the risks involved, Antonio will continue his trek to school.

Claim #3: Antonio acted courageously by attending a school that was linguistically and culturally different than anything he had previously experienced.

Criteria #3: Acted for a noble purpose - the pride of his mother and father.

Evidence: "I wished for my mother, but I put away the thought because I knew I was expected to be a man." "But I knew that if I did I would shame my family name, that my mother's dream would crumble. I knew I had to grow up and be a man, but oh it was so very hard."

Warrant: A courageous act must be done for a noble purpose. Antonio's fortitude to remain in school comes not from a desire to "show up" the children who laughed at him, nor is it mindless compliance of doing it simply because his mother or father told him to. Even at the young age of seven, Antonio is able to make the connection that his remaining in school is done not for his own account rather it is done in the name of his family. To act on behalf of others is the core of nobility. To remain in school for another reason such as proving his toughness to the children who laughed at him, Antonio would

be acting on his own behalf - this is not courageous, it is selfish. However, by acting on behalf of his family, Antonio acts for them and not himself, which is noble and thus courageous.

Drafted Body Paragraphs

Antonio acted courageously by attending a school that was linguistically and culturally different than anything he had previously experienced. By doing this, Antonio risked something of extraordinary value; his pride. After two embarrassing moments: being laughed at in front of the class when the teacher introduced him and being laughed at when he opens his traditional Chicano lunch of chiles and beans, Antonio's emotional stability is on the verge of breaking. The text states: "A huge lump seemed to form in my throat and tears came to my eyes." And later, "The pain and sadness seemed to spread to my soul, and I felt for the first time what the grown-ups call *la triseta de la vida*." Antonio is physically and emotionally reeling from these shocks to his character.

A courageous act requires that the individual risk something of value. In this case, Antonio risked his pride in attending a school where he did not speak the language nor was he knowledgeable about the customs. Antonio's father's pride in having the "llano" or plains as his school gave Antonio a similar pride in his background as a Chicano. For Antonio, being laughed at by the other students in his class damaged Antonio's perception of himself and his family. To endure this damage, this hurt, and carry on in school so that he could make his family proud, took courage on Antonio's part. A young-person without courage would have simply not returned to this school so that the pain and humiliation of having one's background misunderstood could be avoided altogether.

The second reason Antonio's action can be considered courageous is because Antonio had a clear picture of the situation he was entering beforehand. A courageous act requires that the actor, Antonio in this case, be aware of the risks even before engaging in the act. Before he entered the school building, after crossing the bridge to town, Antonio stops to marvel at the situation he is about to enter. Anaya writes: "When I got to Main Street I was astounded. It seemed as if a million kids were shoutingruntngpushingcrying their way to school. For a long time I was held hypnotized by the thundering herd, then with a cry of resolution exploding from my throat I rushed into the melee." From this perspective, Antonio is aware of the situation he is entering.

For an act to be courageous, the actor must be aware of the risks involved. In this case, Antonio was self-admittedly "hypnotized" by the huge numbers of children making their way to the school. Antonio was able to survey the scene before entering into the, as he calls it, "melee." Without courage, Antonio would have simply remained in that position as a bystander; or Antonio may have turned around and gone home. By using a fictitious word compounding several verbs, author Rudolfo Anaya creates the impression on readers that Antonio is aware of the many behaviors of the other children. A cry of "resolution" implies that, despite the risks involved, Antonio will continue his trek to school.

The third and final reason Antonio acted courageously is that by remaining at the school when he wanted so badly to run home, Antonio thought not of himself but of his family. Antonio acted for a noble purpose - the pride of his mother and father. After escaping from the classroom when he is humiliated for the second time that day, Antonio considers the consequences of running away from school: "But I knew that if I did [run away] I would shame my family name, that my mother's dream [of my being a scholar] would crumble. I knew I had to grow up and be a man, but oh it was so very hard." A courageous act must be done for a noble purpose. Antonio's fortitude to remain in school comes not from a desire to "show up" the children who laughed at him, nor is it mindless compliance of doing it simply because his mother or father told him to. Even at the young age of seven, Antonio is able to make the connection that his remaining in school is done not for his own account rather it is done in the name of his family. To act on behalf of others is the core of nobility. To remain in school for another reason such as proving his toughness to the children who laughed at him, Antonio would be acting on his own behalf - this is not courageous, it is selfish. However, by acting on behalf of his family, Antonio acts for them and not himself, which is noble and thus courageous.