

“Quilt of a Country” by Anna Quindlen Evidence Chart

What is the thesis statement for this article? (quote it directly)

“America is an improbable idea. A mongrel nation built of ever-changing disparate parts, it is held together by a notion, the notion that all men are created equal, though everyone knows that most men consider themselves better than someone”(Paragraph 1).

Paraphrase this thesis statement:

The author is claiming that America is made up of many, very diverse parts, but all these parts are united under their identities as Americans.

Interpret the author’s choices that contribute to the persuasiveness of the text. (Consider the use of language, information from sources, use of varied syntax, as well as rhetorical appeals.) In the chart below, record the effective quotations from the text in column 1. In column 2, identify the rhetorical appeal that is used. In column 3, analyze how the author uses language, varied syntax, or source information to develop the rhetorical appeal and contribute to the persuasiveness of the text.

Effective Quotation	Rhetorical Appeal Created	How does the author use language, varied syntax, or source information to create the rhetorical appeal?
“That's because it was built of bits and pieces that seem discordant, like the crazy quilts that have been one of its great folk-art forms, velvet and calico and checks and brocades. Out of many, one. That is the ideal”(Paragraph 1).	Pathos	This quotations utilizes the metaphor of a quilt, with its various patterns, to illustrate the “disparate parts” of America. The quilt, like America, is made of parts, but held together despite is discordance. The use of a quilt, a piece of folk art that is associated with comfort, appeals to the audience’s emotions, thus creating pathos. The patriotism and warm feelings created with this image furthers the author’s thesis that America is united, though it is different.

“Yet even in 1994, the overwhelming majority of those surveyed by the National Opinion Research Center agreed with this statement: “The U.S. is a unique country that stands for something special in the world”(Paragraph 6).	Logos	The use of information from an outside source supports the idea that America is different. Using information from an outside source provides support that bolsters the author’s claim with irrefutable data, as opposed to emotional appeals.
“The reality is often quite different, a great national striving consisting frequently of failure. Many of the oft-told stories of the most pluralistic nation on earth are stories not of tolerance, but of bigotry” (Paragraph 2).	Pathos	The author uses varied syntax to present an image of the contrasting nature of America. Throughout the text the author has been extolling the virtues of America. Through the use of varying syntax that emphasizes the contrasting elements of America (“striving”/”failure” and “tolerance”/”bigotry”), the author appeals to the conflicting emotions that many Americans feel about their country.
“What is the point of this splintered whole? What is the point of a nation in which Arab cabbies chauffeur Jewish passengers through the streets of New York--and in which Jewish cabbies chauffeur Arab passengers, too, and yet speak in theory of hatred, one for the other? What is the point of a nation in which one part seems to be always on the verge of fisticuffs with another, blacks and whites, gays and straights, left and right, Pole and Chinese and Puerto Rican and	Pathos	The author makes use of rhetorical questions which include contrasting images in this section of text. The rhetorical questions suggest that the answer to these questions is obvious, proving that the “point” of a diverse nation, even one that is full of polarizing groups, is that it continues to exist at all. These questions, though they seem to present a divided America with its contrasting subgroups, actually create a sense of purpose and an emotion of pride in the reader. Pointing out the improbability of America supports the notion that it is unique and, therefore, deserving of the pride that Americans feel.

Slovenian?”(Paragraph 4)		
“Once these disparate parts were held together by a common enemy, by the fault lines of world wars and the electrified fence of communism. With the end of the cold war there was the creeping concern that without a focus for hatred and distrust, a sense of national identity would evaporate, that the left side of the hyphen--African-American, Mexican-American, Irish-American--would overwhelm the right.”(Paragraph 5).	Pathos	Many elements are used in this section to create a sense of fear and dread in the reader. This section leads with divisive words (“disparate,” “fault lines,” and “electrified fence”). However, the author states the divisive, fearful events actually drew Americans together. In the second part of this quotation, however, the author uses a carefully crafted sentence and the use of words that suggest absence to reinforce a sense of fear in the reader. Using words such as “evaporate” and “overwhelm” to discuss national identity suggest that it is in danger. The author furthers this image by arranging this sentence in a way that separates the individual identities (“African-American, Mexican-American, Irish-American”) from the rest of the sentence. This visually illustrates the fear of separation and division that the author is discussing in this section and the text as a whole.
“When photographs of the faces of all those who died in the World Trade Center destruction are assembled in one place, it will be possible to trace in the skin color, the shape of the eyes and the noses, the texture of the hair, a map of the world. These are the representatives of a mongrel nation that somehow, at times like this, has one spirit”(Paragraph 8).	Pathos Logos	These lines act both as an emotional image of diversity and unity, as well as logical support for the author’s thesis. The emotional impact of the images of these people who died at the hands of terrorists attacks against America creates a feeling of loss at their deaths and a sense of unity at the America that they represent. The fact that these images represent real people who died under the banner of “American” logically reveals the author’s assertion that America is diverse.

