Schumacher / Strotman on Brent Staples

Strotman: Provided an introduction with Ethos on the author, Staples. Writing heavily influenced by violence in Chester. Alludes to burying his family. Shared an anecdote of his autobiography from his website… he talked about how he figured that he wouldn’t be able to go to college.

Schumacher: He’s very intimidating.

Schumacher: Ethos=automatic. Has been many places. Wide base of experience. Actual story = combination of stories from his own life, as well as talking about people he knew. Contemporary manhood, masculinity’s proclivity for violence.

Strotman: Shared a childhood experience… he was a pariah among his community because he wasn’t drawn to violence, power of intimidation. Then outlined rhetorical devices:

* Verbal irony: I didn’t know what to expect… “ripe old age of twenty-two” shows how this happens early in life. Even at 22… ironic that he talked about the same people he knew. Ironic that 22 doesn’t seem like a ripe old age.
* Onomatopoeia:
* Allusion: Demonstrates understanding of the opposition. Another who expressed the same idea as Podhoretz.
* Metaphor

Schumacher: Explained…

* Personification / Zeugma: Stalking sleep / wayfarers…

Strotman: *My Negro Problem—And Ours* by Podhoretz. Personal experiences shared… racial violence… Crow-Jimism = special privilege given to blacks because of white guilt. Builds ETHOS.

Schumacher: This demonstrates understanding of others (like Cofer does!). Staples respects this person… but this demonstrates balance…

**Seminar**

Strotman: Focused on question about maintaining a victim mentality.

* Asgian: Ridiculous that he has to do this.
* Rumsey: Can’t legislate fear-reduction…
* Schumacher: Fear = primal…but where does this fear come from…
* Pappalardo: Xenophobia…
* Carmichael: Is there such a stereotype?
* Reed: I would agree, depending on the situation… walking in an alley. Walking in Montgomery Road…
* Orkwis: Study in Brown v. Board of Education… black being “Bad”
* Hanna: Racism taught to children at a young age.
* Wheat: Something / Someone different = frightening…
* Wick: When I go downtown to OTR, I’m afraid to walk alone at night. History of violence in that neighborhood.
* Nick Reed: To the reading…Staples hearing people locking their cars. Warned by a driving instructor to lock doors downtown. Ridiculous…
* Rumsey: Desire to trust in possibility rather than probability…
* Reed: Something *could* happen…
* Strotman: Vine Street versus Montgomery Road
* Wheat:
* Carmichael: Locational thing… when I was reading… I know a bit about Manhattan—in the northern part, that’s a bad place to walk at night. More about where you are…
* Strotman: He does acknowledge this…
* Eble read from 543…
* Carmichael: Isn’t that two-sided, though? Staples is saying that he understands why she’s afraid, but he’s telling her not to be…
* Hanna: Attacks the stereotype, which alienates him.
* Carmichael: Carrying a gun versus being African American…
* Pappalardo: He’s not one of them…
* Hanna: Moeller = meatheads is like Staples…
* Paz: That’s not what he explicitly says…
* Shaffer: Saying that it’s ridiculous that people are afraid of him. He’s also calling upon African Americans who are addicted to this tough bravado. This is why he does his whistle-thing…
* Asgian: But isn’t that masculinity, though? Doesn’t that make you prone to violence? More of a “gender thing.”
* Schumacher: First question…the racism exists in blaming the black man…
* Asgian: That’s awful… for anyone to have to adjust their demeanor, actions = restricting your own freedom. Shouldn’t have to do that. He gets my respect…
* Nick Reed: Earlier point about Chandler / car locks. Shared an anecdote…

Strotman: Current example—in Steubenville, the girl was blamed, not the rapists. Victim blaming… ? Comparable to Staples? Is that similar?

* Shaffer: Locational issue… went to a play with some guys. Someone broke into my car at Moeller… people’s perceptions of the robber = big black dude. Stereotypes pervade all locations.
* Asgian: To Strotman’s point: Staples does whistle Vivaldi tunes… people do turn on African Americans… in Steubenville, the women was judged…
* Shaffer: The Steubenville girl had to change.
* Wick: She
* Orkwis: Can’t completely pin this on one person. That sounds bad, but… you put yourself in a situation, and there are better decisions…
* Eble: Should a man have to be worried when getting drunk with a bunch of football players?
* Orkwis: Hear about classes where women are taught how to act around guys who take advantage of them.
* Strotman: Why should the woman have to adjust her behavior?
* Orkwis: She can make a better decision…
* Asgian: Avoid the societal problem… people have to change themselves… shared an anecdote about OTR. Carrying a gun?
* Carmichael: Somewhere that you want to go, are you not allowed?
* Wheat: Should she have been responsible enough? She broke the law… asking for issues…
* Carmichael: Are the guys asking for issues, too?
* Wheat: Hanging out with redneck guys getting in an argument…it will generally degenerate into a fight
* Pappalardo: Family of degenerates…
* Nick Reed: But that doesn’t diminish the fact that she was raped. The rape is just as bad.
* Eble: We shouldn’t put ourselves in positions where we *could* be harmed.
* Wick: But should someone be afraid of going for a walk at night?
* Wheat: Fear = human nature… primal fear of someone else… we’re hardwired that way…
* Asgian: So…fear, society? Cop walking behind you at night?
* Nick Reed: I wouldn’t be afraid if I didn’t do anything wrong…
* Shaffer: Internal reaction to seeing cops…
* Nick Reed (Paz tried to get in there): My fear would be low…
* Shaffer: I need to keep my eyes forward…
* Wheat:
* Wick: Profiling a killer’s hometown… people are afraid of police…
* Paz: Control / authority that cops have. Staples recognizes his complete control. Read from the text…
* Eble: Read from paragraph 8…
* Schumacher: To that question… related ZP’s comment to the first line about the woman being his “first victim.” **Excellent question.**
* Paz: Black male…
* Kunkel: Lenny from *Of Mice and Men*… Lenny doesn’t mean for this to happen.
* Hanna: Trying to change the stereotype. Connected to Cofer dispelling stereotypes…
* Asgian: (Kunkel wanted to talk) The songs he chooses to whistle…
* Kunkel: A clash of cultures… white people might not understand black culture. Misunderstanding fuels racism. Same with Cofer… people assume. Thinking about this, connected to rape…something similar there, too.
* Nick Reed: Background of how we were raised. Suburbs versus urban… popular culture creates myths… experiences smash stereotypes…
* Eble: That’s why service trips are so important…
* Bonn: Going to the Drop-Inn Center smashed my perceptions…
* Strotman: Stereotypes being propagated… rap music. Crooked Eye… doesn’t respect mainstream rappers who propagate stereotypes to a white audience.
* Schumacher: Genre parody by Nas involving Nick Cannon.
* Orkwis: Doesn’t Nas do that himself?
* Eble talked…
* Carmichael: Chancellor / Chancellow (Eble SNAFFU)… went on… a white person is just as likely to dress that way. We call those people white trash. Why would he do this?
* Nick Reed: Jesse Pinkman…
* Eble: Read from *New Jim Crow*…
* Wheat: Shared FBI crime rate considerations.
* Orkwis: Difference is so big that it blows everything else out of the water…
* Eble: Proportionality…
* Wheat… Myth… 30% of population, 60% of crime… government survey blows that out of the water… under-18 category.
* Strotman: Clarence Thomas versus Robert Menendez (Dominican Republic, prostitutes…)