Deportation

The Twitter Analysis of the Hashtag #Deportations

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Deportation has knowingly become a major trending topic among the United States today. To truly understand what deportation actually is, it is defined as "'the formal removal of an alien from the United States when the alien has been found removable for violating immigration laws.' according to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) of the Department of Homeland Security." (Deportation, 2013, pp.1) This supports the notion that people may be deported for acts such as "committing subversive acts against the government, fraudulently obtaining legal residency, and having a criminal record." (Deportation, 2013, pp.1) Many of these immigrants who have violated any of these acts, or know that they would be charged with any of them, usually try to lay low in the U.S., and do their best in order to not be found by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which then begins to stir up much trouble with other Americans who seem to highly disagree with this act. However, as of 1798, the first law for deportation in the United States was enacted. This law became the Alien Act of 1798, which allowed for the president to deport any alien who was seen as dangerous. As potentially good this law can sound, it most definitely has multiple different opinions thought by many different Americans.
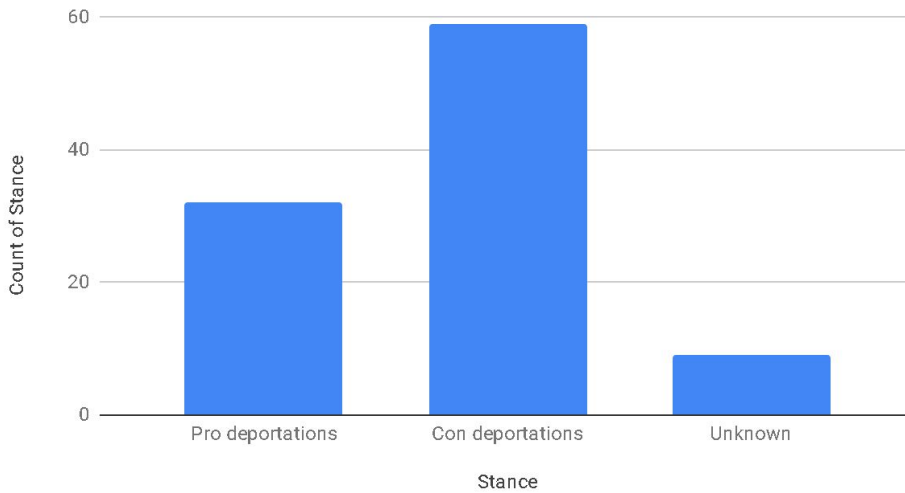
Knowing that the topic of immigration is as big of a political topic as it is, I decided to research it in relation to the responses it has on Twitter. I already knew that the topic of immigration as a whole was going to be such a broad idea, in which needed to be specified on something particular to immigration. In other words, I needed a sub-topic in order to accomplish what I was aiming to accomplish with my research. I then narrowed my overall topic of immigration down to a few possible subtopics that I could progress with. Those topics included

#kidsincages, #immigrationreform, #closethecamps, and #deportations. I then thought and

decided to choose to pursue the hashtag, #deportations. With this hashtag, I began my Twitter

analysis of the trending topic. I first started off with using the TAGS v6.1.9.1 software, in order

to originally find out how many people are truly talking about this topic. As I searched within my

idea of #deportations, I resulted with a total of 505 tweets. This number was not extremely high

and out of control, but it also was not too small, so I thought that it could still work. Right from

the beginning, I knew that I was not going to be able to go through and read all 505 tweets, then

go as far as to analyze and categorize them, so I decided to filter out all of the retweeted tweets

in order to get down to the original #deportation tweets. Filtering out the retweets brought me

down to approximately 150 tweets. From there, I went through those tweets, and deleted any

duplicates, tweets that were in Spanish, or tweets that simply had no reason in being applied for

my research. By doing this last manual filter out, I finished with a total of 101 #deportations

tweets. From there, I read through each one and began to categorize. I made a total of five

categories being, the person's stance on deportation, the main action verb, any rhetorical appeals

present in the tweet, the person's political affiliation, and the main focus/topic of the tweet. The

last category was more for myself to truly understand the message the person was trying to get

across to the public. As I coded out all of these tweets, it took a few hours to try and grasp the

correct stance on every person's tweet, and how they were trying to get their point across. A few

of the tweets were very confusing in that manner, so I did reply "unknown" for some of the

categories, however, not many. Once all of the coding was done, I created graphs for the top

three categories in which had a strong representation of the tweet. The three graphs included, the

stance on deportation, the rhetorical appeals used within the tweet, as well as the political
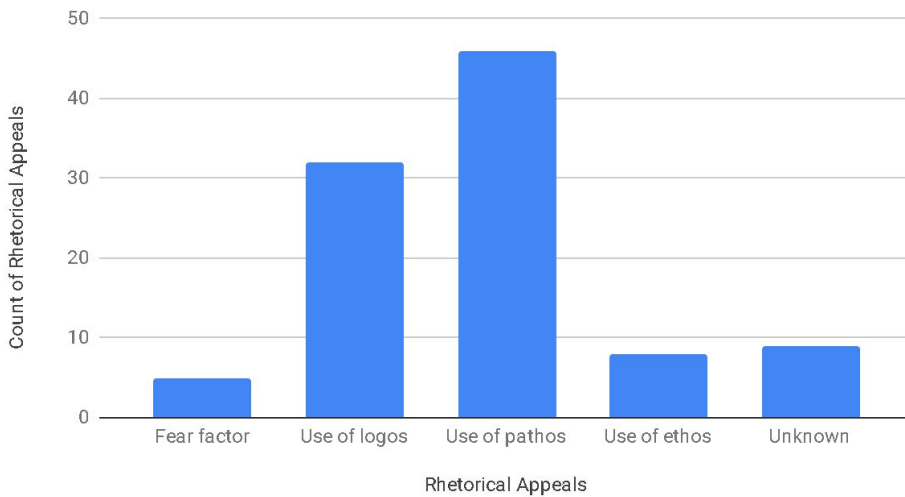
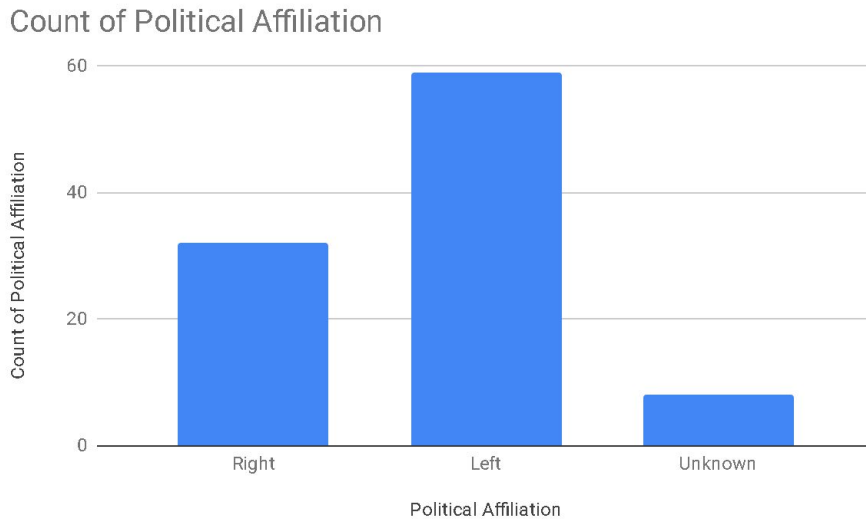The Twitter Analysis of the Hashtag #Deportations

affiliation the person seemed to best portray. The graphs created really helped to show a visual of

how the #deportations had made the public feel. As shown below, this is what the graphs finally

looked like.

Count of Stance

Count of Rhetorical Appeals

Count of Political Affiliation

As pertaining to the graphs, the main category that captures the overall idea of what each person who posts a tweet is saying is the Count of Stance. The stance of the tweet can determine the persons' political affiliation, as well as possibly which type of rhetorical appeals they may use in order to best prove their point.

In regards to the pro deportation group of people, which ended up with a count of 32 tweets, their main argument was that if they can commit the crime of coming over to America illegally, then they should understand that they need to do the time and/or become deported. That is why the people supporting pro deportation are in allegiance with how "the immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 removed the statute of limitations on any and all kinds of deportation." (deportation, 2018, pp.1) This enforces the idea of not being able to have the necessary time to figure out a way to avoid being deported, and increasing ones opportunities to permanently stay or even slightly extend their time in the United States. As understandable as it may be to the people of pro deportation, it can be thought of as very harsh especially to the people of con/anti-deportation.

One of the main arguments that the people of anti-deportation, which stood for the majority count of 59 tweets, pointed out, was the fact that the way these kids and families are being treated is not even remotely respectful. The kids and families should not be trapped in cages, and provided with a severely inadequate amount of resources like food and necessary hygiene products. The life that these immigrants have to live through should not be their reality, or something that they need to start expecting. They believe that it is not right for them to be treated this way, because they are people just like the rest of us."More than 2,000 children remain spread around the United States, far from their parents-many of whom have no idea where their sons and daughters have been taken. The children have been through hell. They are babies who were carried across rivers and toddlers who rode for hours in trucks and buses and older kids who were told that a better place was just beyond the horizon." (Washington Post, 2018, pp.1) This provides a slight description of what these children immigrants have to go through, or risk going through in order to accomplish their simple dream of living in America. What these kids endure can also have negative impacts that people such as ICE may not even be aware of, let alone care about. There was "a 2010 study of immigration related parental arrests (at home or worksites) found that the majority of children experienced at least four adverse behavioral changes in the six months following a raid or arrest...Children cried or were afraid more often; changing their eating or sleeping habits; and/or were more anxious, withdrawn, clingy, angry, or aggressive." (American Immigration Council, 2018, pp.2) As a result of these horrid deportations, it changes the way in which these kids act and behave for the negative. As if they do not go through enough, they have to find a way to cope with these behavioral changes all on their own, without any support. When these arguments are truly represented in the right way,

it allows for the people of the con/anti-deportation to be understood and felt for in the way that they should be, therefore leading to more people to gravitate to their side and point of view.

While researching both sides of the stance on deportation, as well as other counts of information, it is clear as to why each side believes what they believe. However, every time this topic comes up, it is imperative to think about why these immigrants migrated to America in the very first place. When it is honestly thought about, their reasons for migrating are very convincing and understanding. One of the most prevalent reasons as to why immigrants are leaving their countries is because of the fact that they are trying to seek safety for their families as well as themselves. Many of them are actually refugees trying to escape persecution, and increase their chances of survival. There have been studies done in 2015, where 250,199 people out of 3.5 million people have fled their country for the one and only reason being, to have a sense of security. (USA Facts, 2016, pp.1)

Overall, through coding all of the tweets about deportations posted by people with entirely different opinions upon the topic, I was able to come up with multiple graphics to represent them all. With this information, I used what was written on twitter to find common arguments in order to come up with cited resources and help to understand where each side was coming from. Throughout the entirety of this twitter analysis process, it allowed me to truly grasp the opinion of the public, and further comprehend what people on twitter have to say.

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