

Exemple de Compte rendu « Final Confederate statue in New Orleans »

This document is an article from CNN website, published on May 20th 2017 and dealing with the removal of a Confederate statue of General Robert E. Lee in New Orleans.

In the first paragraph, the journalist reminds the readers that there are many Confederate statues in the USA. Nowadays/Today, these statues are at the origin of a debate all over the USA between people who think they should be toppled because they honour/pay tribute to slavery and injustice and those who think they should remain because they represent history and heritage.

In the second paragraph, the journalist tells us about how things happen on the day of the removal : some people attending the event expressed joy by singing.

In the next paragraph, the article highlights the mayor's opinion on the topic : he is on the side of those who think these statues must be removed, since, for him, they don't reflect the mentality of people living in New Orleans. Moreover, according to him, they are bad models/examples for future generations.

Last but not least/finally, he seems engaged in a true process since it is the 4th statue that has been toppled in just 1 month.

The fourth paragraph focuses on how tense the situation was on the day of the removal between those who advocated it and those who opposed it. A few men even brawled/had an argument.

In the last lines of the article, the journalist reminds us that these statues were made many years after the Civil War and were supposed to commemorate what is known as The Lost Cause of the Confederacy. The Lost Cause is a revisionist/negationist ideology that advocates the belief that the cause of the Confederate States during the American Civil War was heroic, just, and not centered on slavery.

As a press article, the document is supposed to inform us about what happened on that day, relating facts and presenting equally the pros and cons of the removal. However, we may question the impartiality of the journalist, first because he chose to develop the arguments in favour of the removal much more than the ones opposed to it, then, because he chose to conclude his article on the Lost Cause myth, leaving the reader with the bitter idea of “celebrating negationism”.

NB : a negationist point of view is an extreme case of revisionism where facts are chosen to be presented while withholding others expressly to support a new narrative.