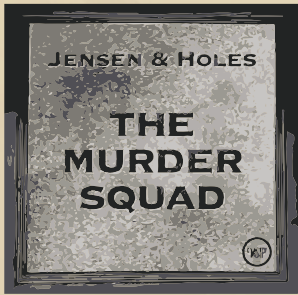


CASE FILE

AMELIA KEMP

The Subject:



WE NEED YOUR HELP: THE RHETORICAL
CONSTRUCTION OF THE CITIZEN DETECTIVE
IN TRUE CRIME PODCAST JENSEN AND
HOLES: THE MURDER SQUAD

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of this study was to understand how the modern true crime genre positions the role of the lay-person in solving crimes. Specifically, I sought to trace the rhetorical strategies by which Jensen and Holes: The Murder Squad true crime podcast encourages and enlists its non-expert audiences in solving cold cases.

*I UNDERTOOK A RHETORICAL
ANALYSIS OF EIGHT PODCAST
EPISODES

FINDINGS

I UNCOVERED A ROOT METAPHOR OF PODCAST AS CLASS

Each episode is a complete class complete with a course description, and in each class the hosts share tips and tricks of the investigative trade while explaining to their students, the listeners, the details of that week's cold case. At the end of each class, the professor-hosts issue what they literally call "The Assignment"; an investigative homework assignment for the listeners to complete that week.

MAJOR IMPLICATIONS

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

What are the dangers of making police detective work accessible to anyone who is interested?

Should the people, traditionally the policed, become arms of the existing police structure? Should citizens not work to hold the system accountable and check its power rather than simply expand the system's reach?

QUESTIONS?

Email any questions to
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