

This narrative was taken from a brief description of Inclusive Illinois, an initiative conceptualized by the administration in response to criticisms of a hostile campus environment. Within the first couple of sentences, the reader learns that the mission of Inclusive Illinois is to create and maintain "an inclusive atmosphere." Additionally, the author states that the initiative involves "examination, challenge, and change." But, readers are left confused as to what these lofty statements actually mean. Words such as "challenge" and "change" suggest a problem that needs to be addressed within the current structure. However, the author makes little attempt to specifically name the problem or define these ambiguous words and phrases. By speaking in general and overly ambitious terms, the author effectively redirects the attention from the main issues. In essence, the goal seems to be to engender a sense of blind and unquestioning patriotism.

This is also evident in the author's use of first person throughout the narrative. There is an underlying assumption that there exists a relationship between the campus community and the Inclusive Illinois initiative. According to Fairclough, an existential assumption is based on what is thought to exist. The repeated use of "we" "us" and "our" suggests that a collective identity exists. It would follow, then, that each member is equally committed to and invested in the goals of Inclusive Illinois.

Value assumptions, or assumptions about what is good or desirable, are also equally prevalent in the narrative. Again,

although "it" has not been explicitly defined in the text, there seems to be some aspect of the campus atmosphere that is undesirable and threatens to destroy our goal of establishing "an inclusive" environment. Furthermore, the text assumes that "we" as a collective would benefit from removing this threat.