

Why does the U.S. government hide certain things from the citizens of the United States and how does the government being private to the public affect them?

What things does the government hide from us and how?

There is no question that the government of the United States does not disclose information to the citizens of the United States whether it is about UFOs or aliens that have existed for an extended period, whether or not hidden organizations such as the Illuminati are involved, and has taken over the U.S government. I was loosely considerate of how and why the government does these things until I felt I wanted to learn more about this particular topic and why it exists. I became fascinated by this topic because it sounds like something surreal due to the fact that anything in the world can happen at any given moment and the government having the courage to not inform the people of the United States of what happened is irresponsible. It is understandable that because they have power and higher control of everything that goes on in the country, however, that does not mean that the people of the United States should not be informed of different types of situations/secrets that are being kept only for their benefit.

The government can undoubtedly hide top-secret topics from the citizens of the United States because it may be dangerous information to be shared towards them that must remain silenced by the public. Anyone can acknowledge the fact when someone does not want anyone to know whether it is for their good. For example, according to Braunschweiger, "The U.S government can use evidence that it may have obtained illegally – from methods ranging from old-fashioned wiretaps to sophisticated data sweeps – to prosecute people without telling them how it got the evidence. If the government wants to keep the source of this illegally obtained

information secret and conceal potentially illegal activities, it could affect us all”(Braunschweiger). This demonstrates that the US government has the authority to prosecute people using evidence it may have obtained unlawfully, including sophisticated data sweeps and traditional wiretaps. Suppose the government wants to hide potentially illegal activity and the source of this information that was obtained illegally. In that case, the results could have an impact on every citizen in the United States. I would also apply Ethos which is one of three rhetorical device appeals that were developed by philosopher Aristotle because the concept of trust revolves around the government and the citizens of the United States and how that specific aspect illustrates the relationship that can further strengthen between both perspectives, whether or not it also serves to highlight why the government withholds certain information from the general public.

One of the many issues that relate to how the government treats its citizens privately is technology, particularly when the government is keeping an eye on and invading their privacy. For example, the government can keep track of anything that goes on with technology in our daily lives such as our phones, computers, etc. However, the confirmation on whether or not that is being fulfilled by the government has not been disclosed. Abdo stated in his writing “We need to know more about what information the government is collecting about millions of innocent Americans. We need to know more about what the government does with the trillions of bits of electronic data it is amassing in its files. We need these answers because, even if we have nothing to hide, that does not mean we want to live in a society where nothing is private”(Abdo). This shows that awareness is important regarding the fact that the government can withhold information from the date within citizens of the United States without disclosing that their

privacy is in jeopardy and even if the government had nothing to hide, living in a secret society is an example of the type of society the people of the United States don't want to live in. Ethos can once again be applied to this example because I agree with the fact that how ethos is the concept of persuading a particular audience to change their belief/trust plays a significant role in how the belief of this example of what things the government is hiding from us.

The most recent popular topic of what the government is trying to hide from us is the existence of extraterrestrial life AKA aliens/ufos. I am someone who is fascinated by the thought of aliens, and UFO sightings, however, my curiosity increased to learn more about the topic because I wanted to be fully aware that the government is involved. For example, if aliens have been visiting earth, why should the government have to be involved? If the answer was to prevent mass panic among the citizens of the United States, then that will only lead to more questioning and concern for the people. According to Sarah, she states "The flying-saucer community is definitely onto something, in charging that the military is hiding something. The Government has come into possession of extraterrestrial craft and beings and is hiding them from the public, partly to avoid causing panic. Rather than acknowledging the existence of the top-secret flights or saying nothing about them publicly, the Air Force decided to put out false cover stories" (Scoles). This demonstrates that the government covering up the topic of Aliens/UFOs existing and withholding the information that can be disclosed to the public is considered more accurate than to be false. While avoiding mass chaos to maintain the safety of the billions of Americans in the United States, curiosity and questioning will only increase. Logos is another one of Aristotle's appeals that relate to this particular topic because logos is an appeal to reason based on logic and knowledge, which in this case, the government not

disclosing the knowledge of possible extraterrestrial life to the citizens of the United States serves the purpose for the question that this topic is considered one of the many things the government is hiding from us and why this affect the people of the United States.

While extraterrestrial life is one of the many topics considered towards the purpose that the government hides from us, I took the liberty of discovering and inheriting the curiosity of the secrecy that possibly goes on in the military air force facility such as Area 51. Area 51 is a military air force base that is located in Nevada. I recently learned that the government has never disclosed any of the things that take place in this facility which further brings questioning and curiosity to the citizens of the United States of what is the government hiding from them and why? People heavily believe and acknowledge that the government is hiding signs of extraterrestrial life in this facility. However, the government's privacy towards the public once again plays a critical role in what the people desire and how withholding this type of information affects their view as a society towards the government. For example, Robert states "The basic, flawed premise behind the Area 51 mythology can be boiled down to this: The government won't reveal what's going on there, so it must be something ultra-super-amazingly secret. Area 51 is synonymous with government cover-ups and potentially testing alien technology that is kept from the public" (Lea). This proves that Area 51 joins in one of the topics that are being held back from being disclosed as well as covering up this topic to the citizens of the United States. In addition, Aristotles' third appeal that relates to this topic is Pathos. Pathos is an appeal to emotion when a person wants the audience they are persuading to feel the way they want them to feel. In this case, the government is hiding all of the previously mentioned topics from the public as a way for them to feel "safe" and not have to worry which again shows the opposite of the

question of what things the government is trying to hide from us. However, certain tactics take place so the government can manage how to handle the process of trying to maintain secrecy towards the citizens of the United States.

While the previous topics taught me more about our society's relationship with the US government, I also wanted to learn more about how the government's keeping secrets can lead to citizens taking action towards them and finding out whether what they are hiding is true or not. For instance, at the time I became unaware until I found out recently that back in 2019 there was an actual event online that was intended to seek citizens from all over the United States to come together and raid Area 51 in hopes to discover the secrets of extraterrestrial life the government is hiding from us. Nevett stated in his writing "Storm Area 51, They Can't Stop All of Us". The plan, as the name implied, was to charge at the base in large enough numbers to bypass security. Once inside the facility, the supposed secrets lurking within - the alien technology and clandestine government research - could finally be disclosed to the public. "Let's see them aliens" (Nevett). This demonstrates that the thread of "Raiding area 51" began as a joke, however the fact that the public eye was determined to go through with this plan to get answers to what the government is potentially covering up in this secretive military base. I was open to learning more about this topic specifically because although the government does hide classified information for protection to avoid any danger, as it comes to a situation where a bunch of people from different states would come together in Nevada to possibly raid a top-secret military base just to receive answers the government forbids to disclose although they have been known to do a lot of coverups just once again shows how the government functions towards their relationship with the citizen of the united states. Furthermore, the future of whether the

government handles and maintains the factors hiding things from the people will have to be disclosed eventually.

As time progresses, people still gain more curiosity about these topics since no disclosed information has yet to be revealed by the government. There is no doubt that no one can tell what's to come in the near future, mainly whether or not new situations occur in which it is something the government decides to just cover up once again. For example, if a terrible disaster occurred in a state in which the reason for why the tragedy occurred has not been revealed by any high authority to the public, then it just became a suspicious scenario for the public when they have a right to know. After having the desire to learn much more on this topic and what lies within this topic, the belief that the government withholding classified information in general from the public is a concept citizens will not tolerate. Pathos once again plays a critical role for the people in which they want the government to feel the way they want to which is empathy and fairness towards them. Without a doubt, disclose certain information due to privacy and protection of making sure information must not get into the wrong hands, but once speculation starts around the country and it starts to get controversial, then the government's option to remain private to the public once again supports how they just hide things from the citizens of the United States. According to National Archives, "Classified national security information is information created or received by an agency of the federal government or a government contractor that would damage national security if improperly released", (National Archives). This states that the government keeps information classified as a way to prevent any misconception about national security to prevent anything from becoming mistakenly released.

The government has greater authority over everything that occurs in the nation, but that doesn't mean the American people shouldn't be aware of the various kinds of situations and secrets held for their advantage alone. While the government does provide us with a lot of helpful needs such as food services, military protection, etc, I believe in certain circumstances that disclosure is the most important factor towards anything that citizens seek. These topics are important because this is the reality of the United States. Everything that happens in our country depends on the government. Therefore, it is important that disclosing certain information that the people of the United States desire is important because instead of covering anything up it is only important that the American know the truth and only the truth.

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Rhetorical Devices used:

Ethos: Twice

Logos: Twice

Pathos: Twice

With these rhetorical appeals, I wanted to convey how each one relates to the certain topic I mentioned in the paragraphs. I chose to mainly focus on Aristotle's 3 appeals because as I was writing this paper, I discovered how the topics/claims mentioned can support the evidence for the topics I chose as well.