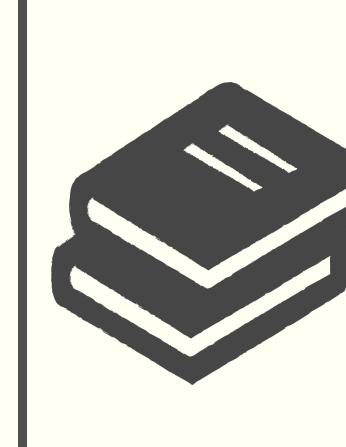


A LINGUISTIC COMPARISON



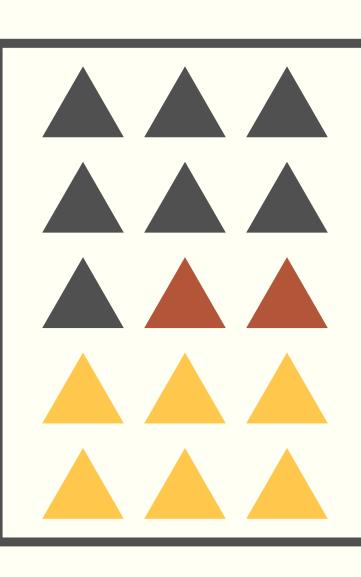
SUICIDE NOTES VS. MANIFESTOS





DEFINITION 01 suicide note is a written document of the

author's intention to take his/her own life. A manifesto is a written statement that discloses the ideologies, motivations and intentions of its author. Both text types are crucial linguistic evidence and an attempt to influence how the author is remembered in the future.



hope this

Do you know the difference?



Letters, notes, texts

Suicide Notes

VS.

Manifestos

Essays, declarations,

lengthy document,

consisting of multiple

messages, online postings; often hand-written, sometimes type-written

Often one document with

suicide notes addressed to

varying length, rarely multiple

Type & Mode

mostly type-written

Mostly one

pages

sections

online postings;

different individuals Often specific addressee with personal relationship; sometimes directed toward

general audience

Often less formal and

Audience

Style & Structure

Format

Mostly no particular addressee; often directed toward general public

Often formal, academic,

organized into different

cohesive, well-structured,

personal, somewhat structured and organized

Focus

Concerned with killing others; usually not

Concerned with killing

discourse

oneself; often emotional

emotion-driven



Though suicide notes and manifestos can vary greatly in appearance, style and content, common themes can be observed in both text types. Moreover, various shared themes can be identified across both suicide

VS.

Motives

(personal,

political,

religious,

economical)

Tunnel vision

(obsession with

suicide/attack)



Psychological Pain

Suicide Notes

notes and manifestos.

Realization to take

personal action now

Manifestos

Apologies/forgiveness

Loneliness/emptiness

Instructions for belongings/remains ('will')

Guilt/shame Reassurance

Grief/sorrow

Hopelessness

Physical Pain Self-blame

Happiness/peacefulness

Love/endearment/gratefulness

03

Fear

Hate towards self or others Sociological

Methods (utilized gear)

grievances

TIME AND SPACE

Suicide notes are usually produced in a state of urgency

or distress, and created within a relatively short time

Planning of attack (training, choice of location/target)

> Manifestation of belief system

Encouragement of others to

commit similar attacks

Influence/inspiration of

others

Self-appointed hero figure who is fighting

oppressive government

International/national conspiracy theories

Reaction of media and public, aftermath/future

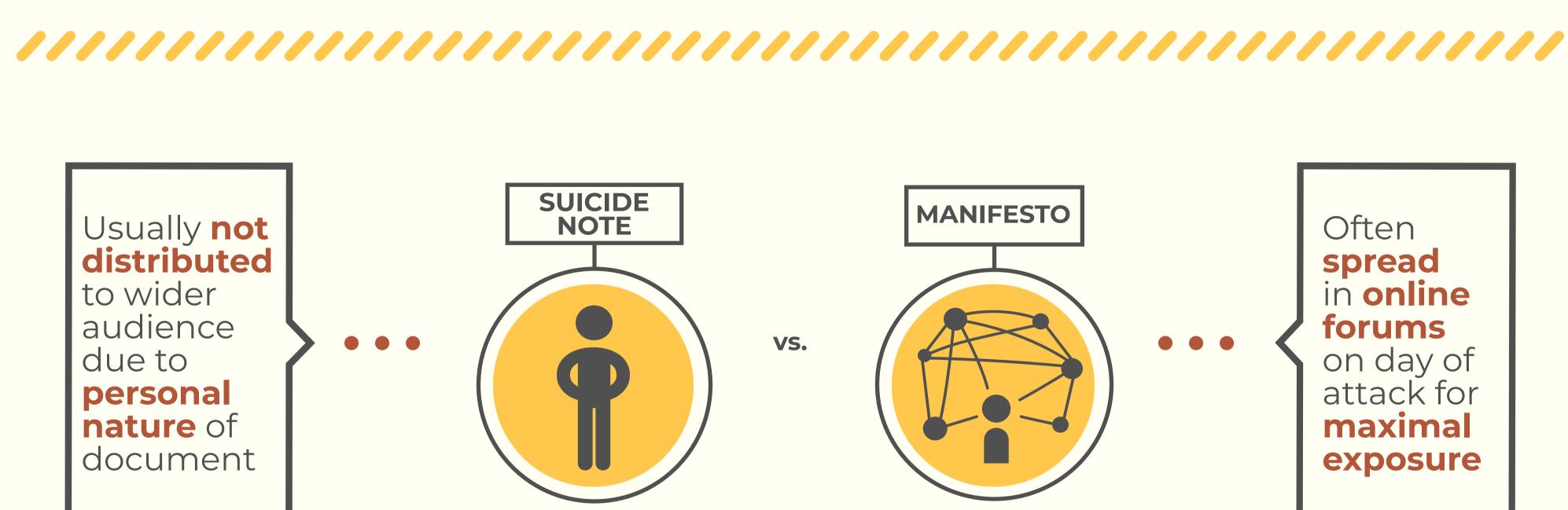
frame. Manifestos, however, tend to be compiled over a longer period of time. They are frequently uploaded to image-board websites, such as '4chan' or '8chan', to spread the author's beliefs and reasoning for the attack.

Often written within Often written within minutes before act days/weeks/months leading up to attack; of suicide; usually usually several drafts only **one draft**

VS.

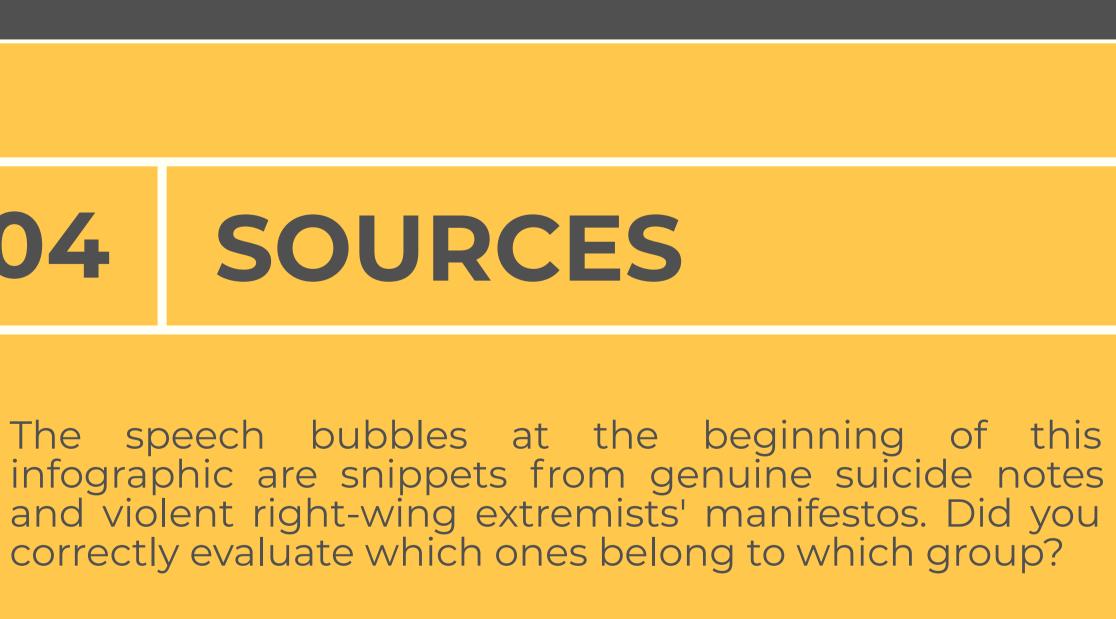
VS.





SUICIDE

NOTE



04

SUICIDE

NOTE

"Accept death: as it is

as certain as the

setting of the sun at

evenfall. Only when

you embrace death

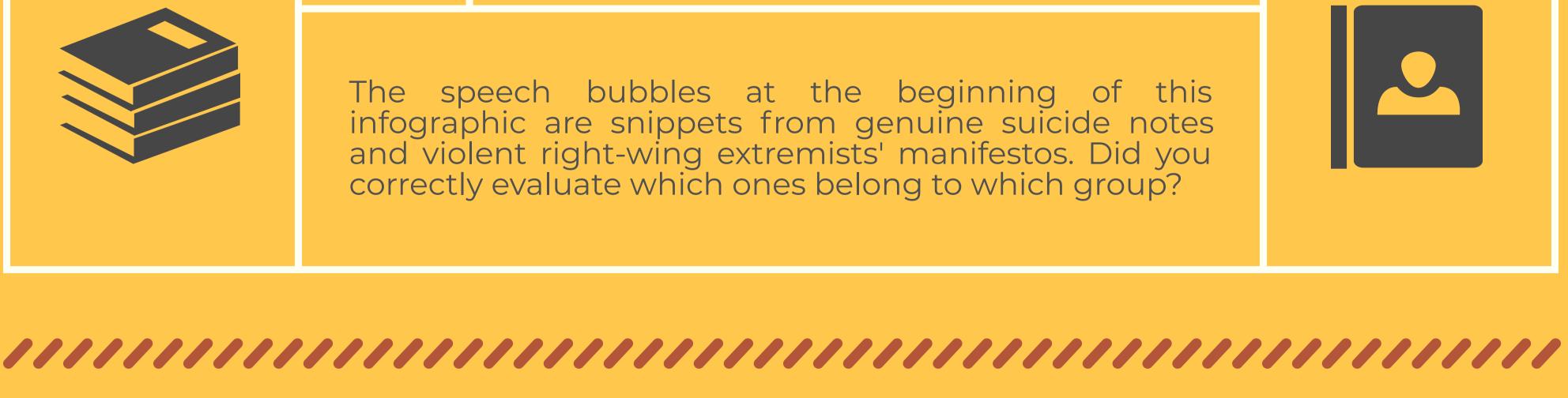
and the only thing

you will have left to

fear is inaction." (4)

MANIFESTO

Often spread in **online** forums on day of attack for maximal exposure



"well, i dont really know

what to write, expect for **im**

either going to kill myself

tonight or have I final

day at school, and a final

chance to see [name],

tomorrow (...)". (1)

"I hope this

is what you

wanted." (2)

"Please give anything I own to Mike and Pete. Tell both of them I love them so much. Mike, you're gonna

really be something buddy

(...). I really wish I would've

spent more time with yall,

but I did not and

am so sorry." (3)

"I had nothing left to live for but revenge. Women must be punished for their crimes of rejecting such a magnificent

"My death is

likely inevitable. If

I'm not killed by the

police, then I'll

probably be gunned

down by one of the

invaders."(5)

(4) Brenton Tarrant (2019), Christchurch, New Zealand Mosque Shooter.

Manifestos

gentleman as

myself." (6)

(5) Patrick Crusius (2019), El Paso, Texas Walmart Shooter.

Suicide Notes (1) Olsson, J. and Luchjenbroers, J.

(2014) Forensic Linguistics.

(2) Shneidman, E. and Farberow, N. (1957) Clues to Suicide. Los Angeles: McGraw-Hill Books.

New York: Bloomsbury Publishing.

(3) **Olsson**, J. (2012) <u>WordCrime</u>. London: Bloomsbury Publishing.

(6) Elliot Rodger (2014), Isla Vista,

California University Shooter.

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