1. Using a humorous, hyperbolic slant, Britt evaluates the differences between neat and sloppy people and sides with the sloppy. She claims that “neat people will toy with the idea of throwing the children out of the house just to cut down on the clutter.” While it is clear that she is jabbing at neat people, she does so in a funny, exaggerated manner which signals to the reader to take what she’s writing with a grain of salt. Yes, neat people can be a little OCD, but surely the majority would never consider throwing out their kids for the sake of cleanliness.
2. Britt’s tone when discussing the differences between neat and sloppy people is blunt, hyperbolic, and humorous. She claims that the difference between neat and sloppy people is a “moral” one because sloppy people suffer the “unfortunate consequence of their extreme moral rectitude,” which she explains is a “heavenly vision” that is “so perfect” it is unattainable. This straightforward, yet overstated claim that sloppy people’s sloppiness is a side effect of their lofty morals is humorous in nature. The idea that spirituality has something to do with a person’s proclivity to hoard is absurd. The average reader might interpret this as Britt grasping at straws in defense of her messy tribe.

3. A generalization is like a blanket statement about a group of people that has some sort of logical flaw. For example, the idea that all
women like to go shopping is a generalization or stereotype, and while it might have the semblance of truth, it isn’t true for every woman. Britt uses the generalization “[t]he only messy thing in a neat person’s house is the trash can.” While this might ring true for some neat people, it does not ring true for all neat individuals, so it is a generalization.

5. Barry’s perspective is biased in favor of men; while he admits that men fail to detect dirt as well as women, we can infer that he believes males possess the redeeming quality of obsessing over sports. He shares the example of his wife claiming his son’s bathroom looks “filthy,” while he believe “it always looks perfectly fine,” to show the stereotypically different ways men and women approach cleanliness. Towards the end of the essay, Barry says that he and his friends
chose to watch a “pivotal” World Series game instead of joining the women who “prattled away about human relationships or something.” The negative connotation of “prattled,” juxtaposed with the positive connotation of the “pivotal,” reinforces his biased point of view.