

A

3/18/2017

### Loneliness and the Misplaced Identity

The idea of hiding behind one's shadow is better than dealing with the loneliness of having a misplaced identity. We all have our own individual journeys when it comes to finding an identity but for Marjane Satrapi, the narrator of *Persepolis*, it became about trying to fit in rather than being true to herself. It is never easy adapting to new environments especially when someone is doing it on their own in a foreign land. Under extreme circumstances, Marjie did her best to adapt to any new ideas that came her way but yet she always ended up not fitting into society. As humans we do our best to conform to society's standards but for others it can be hard to do the way society wants them to. Marjie forms a displaced identity because of her need to fit in every environment, therefore, Marjie's identity crisis becomes a form of rejection to every culture she surrounded herself in.

Marjie's association to every environment became an obstacle for her true identity to form. Marjie's adjustment to the differences of culture affected the way she wanted to present herself to others. The adjustment of the culture in Vienna made Marjie distant herself from her own culture in Tehran. She did not leave her homeland to go on an adventure but for survival. Marjie just wanted to be her own self in a new land but it became a problem when her presence became a burden to others. Marjie's arrival to a new land affected her placement of being in a permanent home. Marjie's presence of being in her first of home of many, overpowered the lives of her host families, forcing them to push her out (Satrapi 7). Marjie is without the nurture and the guidance from her parents which leaves her in isolation when communicating with others. As she adjusts to one culture it became a form of disgrace to her own culture. Marjie leaves her

home under extreme circumstances which threw her off course when it came to fitting in as “normal” in Vienna. Marjie’s misplaced identity became affected by every environment she associated with, leaving her with the disability of never forming her true self because of that rejection from society.

Society emphasizes the idea of forming a proper personality is crucial to conform with the beliefs of others. Marjie’s independence carves her pathway to forming an identity but she struggles with forming one because of the differences of the environments in Vienna. Marjie’s constant effort to change her character always seems to backfire because her identity does not satisfy the expectations of others or herself. As she would try to blend in, a part of her unconscious would always remind her of home (40). Marjie’s development of her identity keeps constantly changing because of her effort to fit into every environment. Marjie feels that if she does not fit in, she will be alone but the constant change leaves her in isolation. Nobody in Vienna can relate to Marjie’s sense of identity and because of those constant changes to her identity, it makes them look at her with confusion. She faces backlash and disrespect because of her misplaced identity. Marjie separates her identity and her own culture in order to start fresh but it never works and consequently, the constant changes to her identity backfires in her homeland.

The unknown identity tends to give certain misconceptions, which creates the belief that those certain individuals are lacking. Marjie did her best to carve her own path towards society in Vienna but because of her decisions, she faces even more of a backlash in her homeland of Tehran. The effort to create an identity in Vienna forms the same effect in her homeland with an even greater burden. Marjie’s friends have no experience with the westernize culture, but with Marjie’s displaced of an identity they seem to think she embraces most of the westernize culture

(105). Marjie's friends have a unique perspective towards the westernize culture which is the opposite of Marjie's experiences. There is a contrast between reality and fantasy, in which, Marjie knew that difference. Marjie's constant transformation of her identity causes her friends to judge her. The world may be small but it is vastly different when it comes to people. Marjie seems to struggle with an identity because of society in both locations. People will tend to have different beliefs and understanding towards others and Marjie became affected by those mentalities at a young age. Society put that burden on her and it became a struggle for her to fight it without any help. Marjie became trapped in her own world in which she combatted every day for her misplaced identity to be freed. The idea of not being free affected Marjie in ways other people could not comprehend. We all battle conflicts but sometimes others combat greater battles that involve their individual self.

An identity puts the journey of every individual into perspective because it is something that takes a lifetime to create and cherish. Marjie develops a sense of perspective for every identity that she creates for herself, even though most of the time it became a rejection from her surrounding society. Everybody contributes to society in one way or another. We all have contrasting opinions about one and another, sometimes it affects people and sometime it does not. Marjie became affected by various individuals who created distinctive qualities about her. Home or abroad, she faced criticism and no young adult should go through those circumstances. Nobody understood Marjie because she did not stand with the status quo, she became rebellious and independent in her own way. The continuous changes in culture and identity took a toll on Marjie because it affected her personality. As the world conforms to certain standards she fought it with intelligence and independence, even though it did not work often, she became the person she is due to her own self.

## Works Cited

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis Volume 2: The Story of A Return*: 1<sup>st</sup> ed, New York: Pantheon, 2004. Print.

B  
April 4, 2017

### The Life Of A College Student With Anxiety

Why is it that once something great happens to you, it can turn out to be a total nightmare? That is what college has turned into. Getting accepted and attending college is supposed to be a joyous moment and the best four years of your life, but these days college students are forced to pay almost hundreds of thousands of dollars to attend college; they also have to work while trying to balance a heavy workload and still try to enjoy and have fun in life. Due to us having to balance and worry about so many different things in life has caused a great percentage of college students to have a serious case of anxiety. In Gregg Henriques's article, "What is Causing the College Student Mental Health Crisis?" and Jan Hoffman's article, "Anxious Students Strain College Mental Health Centers" they both are examining why college students have such high anxiety levels and how it affects them. Hoffman stated that nearly one in six students were treated for or diagnosed with anxiety within six months of starting college. More and more college students are suffering from anxiety for numerous of reasons and it is time that there is a solution to this problem.

A major issue that has and always will be a contribution to college students mental health problems will be the perennial economic and financial pressures. The reason why money has such a big impact on a student's life is because it is a major necessity to not only attend college, but to just live. In the article "What is Causing the College Student Mental Health Crisis?" by Gregg Henriques, he states that, "More students must work to pay for their college education, tuition, and other costs are much greater thus there are greater levels of debt, and the job prospects are worse for emerging adults than they have been for a long time" (Henriques). Once

you begin college, you are viewed as an adult and when you are looked upon like that, you have to show adult actions such as getting a job, start to pay your own bills, and even pay for tuition and the loans you take out to attend college. Most students are used to their parents taking care of them financially, so when they are not there to help them anymore, the students become lost and overwhelmed. It is not surprising that a majority of college students have a bad case of anxiety or depression because when you have to stay up all night possibly writing a seven page essay, go to class the next day, go to work, and then have to worry about paying bills, you have no time to relax or even have a clear mind.

Not only do college students have to deal with financial pressures, they also have to deal with the pressure to succeed academically. Henriques also explained how “There has been massive grade inflation, especially at the high school level. That, combined with overprotective parenting, seems likely to have the result of creating in students the expectation that they will continue to get virtually all As” (Henriques). This is why it is very important that high school teachers give students their true grade instead of just passing everyone because now, once that 4.0 student comes to college, they will have a rude awakening and they will not be able to handle the fact that they received a B or lower. In the article “Anxious Students Strain College Mental Health Centers” by Jan Hoffman, interviewed a student that had received their first C ever in college and they felt that their life was falling apart and they could not handle that. This starts with the parents because of course they should have high expectations for their children but they should not force them to come home with a report card with straight As every time. I say this because it is not fair that college students are feeling less of a person just because they got a grade that was not an A. College students have enough to worry about and if they know they tried their best, no matter the grade they end with should not tear apart their life.

During my eighteen years of life I have witnessed and even dealt with some forms of anxiety and depression. Since attending Cal State Los Angeles, I have noticed a drastic rise in my anxiety. I have no idea where it came from and it bothers me a great amount because I feel like it hold me back from activities I want to take part in, in college. I have a feeling it comes from being so overwhelmed with school work and also trying to please my family because they are expecting a lot out of me. My financial status brings me anxiety too because I recently found out that there is a possibility that I cannot live in housing next year due to their being an overload of students, so that means that I will have to find a job quickly and begin saving up to rent out an apartment. If I cannot find a job or an apartment, I would possibly have to drop out of school and attend a junior college near my home because I am not from Los Angeles. I have also witnessed friends crumble when they received their first grade other than an A in college and some have even had suicidal thoughts because of that and because of the work overload. This is why CSULA needs to tend to their students and make sure mentally they are doing alright.

The anxiety college students suffer from is caused by financial stress, growing up, schoolwork, and even social media, but there needs to be a viable solution to these causes. The first solution to help get rid of anxiety is to just simply talk about it. When a student can speak to someone about their problems and just let all their feelings onto the table, that can clear their mind and take a great amount of stress off of themselves. We college students should learn to not always overload ourselves with many different things. College can get hectic at times but we need to know how to balance fun and schoolwork because those fun times can prepare someone for a stressful week at school. Thinking positive is a very important step when getting rid of anxiety because anxiety usually comes from thinking negatively and fear, but when someone always have a positive mindset and try to always look at the good in things, then that will

decrease their anxiety levels. Lastly, just breath because practicing your breathing and focusing on that can also calm down students anxiety levels and allow them to think more clearer. If the students suffering from these mental health problems follow these basic steps, they will become more open to finding help. But In order to make sure students are following these instructions to decrease anxiety, there should be mandatory anxiety workshops at least twice a year that allows students to come and express themselves and work on their anxiety.

College students anxiety levels are constantly rising due to all the pressure they have on themselves these days and their is a precise solution to solve this problem. College students have to make sure they take care of their school work and maintain a certain GPA to remain at that school, they have to work to pay for school and to live, and try to still have a social life. Everyone knows that college is not easy but it should not be so difficult to where it gives one in every six students anxiety or even gives a student suicidal thoughts. We college students pay a hefty amount to attend school and I believe before buying the basketball teams new uniforms, that money should go towards the students health and opening up anxiety or depression centers. Change needs to occur soon or a solution need to be found soon also because it is not fair that us college students have to pay thousands of dollars just to be mentally destroyed in the end.



## Works Cited

Henriques, Gregg. "What Is Causing the College Student Mental Health Crisis?" *Psychology*

*Today*. N.p., 21 Feb. 2014. Web. 08 Feb. 2017.

Hoffman, Jan. "Anxious Students Strain College Mental Health Centers." *The New York Times*.

N.p., 27 May 2015. Web. 8 Feb. 2017.

C

March 21, 2016

### Dictatorship of Social Class on Education

In the United States, class oftentimes determines the type of education one receives, for example in the reading “Social Class and Hidden Curriculum of Work”, Jean Anyon Argues how social status often affects the learning environment of a child. The factors that impact a student’s environment consist of; the way students are taught, expectations from their teachers, and the lack of resources that are offered to them. The article “Two Students, Two Schools -- 20 Miles and a World Apart” by Mitchell Landsberg, also supports Anyon’s argument by giving a specific example of two students from opposite ends of the social spectrum and how their education differs based on their social status. In the United States social class dictates the outcome of one’s educational opportunities by restricting the lower classes to settle for mediocre education while higher classes are privileged to receive college preparation in order to ensure their success.

In the reading “Social Class and Hidden Curriculum of Work”, Anyon conducts observations in different schools that are located in working class, middle-class, affluent professional, and executive elite communities. As she observed each classroom setting amongst 5th grade classes she was able to see how the differences between each school was caused by economic and occupational social status. In the working class schools, for example, Anyon explains how students are geared towards gaining skills used in occupational jobs rather than skills used to prepare for college level education.

She says, “Most of the rules regarding work are designations of what children are to do; the rules are steps to follow. These steps are told to the children by the teachers and are often written on the board. . . Work is often evaluated not according to whether it is right or wrong but according to whether the children followed the right steps” (Anyon 13). Rather than having students make connections and understand what they are learning, students are taught that following directions is much more important. Coming from a working class school, I have also experienced receiving teachers who used the same methods of teaching which eventually led to confusion amongst students when entering college.

In contrast, students from executive elite schools, are taught to think on their own rather than having to follow direction. “In executive elite schools, work is developing analytical intellectual powers. Children are continually asked to reason through a problem, to produce intellectual products that are both logically sound and of top academic quality” (Anyon 20). Rather than teaching students what to think, executive elite schools are teaching students how to think independently. This shows how students are given much more freedom to think as individuals which will allow them to gain the necessary qualities needed to receive high paying jobs.

Anyon also shows how teachers from working class schools have much lower expectations towards their students compared to schools at the top of the social spectrum. In working class schools teachers limit their students to learning only rules of punctuation in their English classes however in college writing, punctuation is determined on the context one uses in their writing therefore, these students were not being prepared for college level writing nor were they expected to. When Anyon

questioned one of the teachers about this she responded, "Simple punctuation is all they'll ever use," ( Anyon 14). It was easy to see how this teacher did not expect her students to use a higher form of writing, which probably meant that she did not anticipate that her students would go on to pursue a higher education. On contrary, students from executive elite schools, are taught how to further develop their writing skills such as grammar, punctuation, conjunctions etc. Impressively, these students also incorporate writing into each of their subjects as a way to further expand on what they know(Anyon 22).

The Landsberg reading supports Anyon's argument on the distinction of educational opportunities based on the lack of resources when Landsberg compares two students from different economic backgrounds. On one hand, there is Henry who comes from an immigrant family who is part of the working class. His school is located in a neighborhood that is known for its gang violence and high poverty rates. Throughout Henry's high school experience he was deprived of certain privileges that had been provided to students like Kyle. To start off, Henry lacked a life of stability within his home and school. Because his parents were constantly moving due to work, Henry was challenged with having to maintain decent grades. He saw his future headed towards college however, he did not receive guidance or counseling from anyone to point him in the right direction. When it came time to take his practice SAT exam, he was unable to attend because his relatives came from out of town. In Henry's French 3 class, students were highly unprepared and unmotivated and did not meet the requirements of advanced french however, they were still placed in this class. When

Landsberg interviews a teacher from the french 3 class he says, "There's not a lot of willingness to study at home, not a lot of motivation" (Landsberg 9).

The barriers that Henry faced were highly uncommon in a community like Kyle's. Kyle grew up in La Canada High School where the majority of the student body go on to receive a college education. Unlike Henry, Kyle had the privilege of remaining in a stable environment throughout his youth. Because Kyle's education was of great importance to his parents, his father turned down a job offer that would have required him to move to Northern California in order to ensure that his son completed his education at the best schools in La Canada. His mother started a business teaching SAT prep classes which meant that Kyle had the luxury of receiving SAT classes in his home rather than having to take them elsewhere. Kyle also received extensive help from his guidance counselor on deciding which colleges to apply for as well as which one's would best suit him. Lastly, the majority of students in Kyle's German class were far more fluent in the german language compared to Henry's french 3 class. About half of the students in Kyle's German class had the privilege of traveling to Germany where they became familiar with the language.

Henry's parents lacked understanding of the importance of the SAT prep classes because they were not involved in his academics, lack of financial stability in Henry's, household caused his family to constantly move, low funding in Henry's school affected the access to college counselors and funding for trips to foreign countries. Unlike Henry Kyle's school and family were able to avoid these problems because of their financial status which ensured that he would be able to get into good colleges and eventually receive a well paying career. It is obvious that where a person stands on the social and

economical spectrum determines how their educational opportunities will turn out. Henry came from a working class school where he was forced to settle and become accustomed to the resources he was given, however Kyle, who came from a school that would be considered as affluent professional or executive elite, was easily given the resources he needed which guaranteed his success.

## Works Cited

Anyon, Jean. "Social Class and the Hidden Curriculum of Work." *Chicago Public Schools University of Chicago Internet Project*. University of Chicago.  
([cuip.uchicago.edu/-cac/nlu/fnd504/anyon.htm](http://cuip.uchicago.edu/-cac/nlu/fnd504/anyon.htm)) Accessed 24, Jan 2017

Landsberg, Mitchell. "Two Students, Two Schools- 20 Miles and a World Apart." *Los Angeles Times*. 22 June 2009  
<http://proquest.umi.com/pgweb?did=1756870711&Fmt=3&clientId=309&VName=PQD>

**Definition:** Class: n. a group of people considered as a unit according to economic, occupational, or social status; especially a social rank or caste; as the working class, the middle class (334) according to *Webster's New Twentieth Century Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged*. 2nd. ed. New York: Prentice Hall, 1983. Print.

**Essay topic:** Analyze the social class system in the fictional representation of Melton, Iowa, in "Cora Unashamed" by Langston Hughes. Your analysis may focus on the values of the dominant and subordinate classes, and the rights and privileges that went along with certain levels of status. Look at the actions and words of Mrs. Art Studevart and Cora Jenkins, and the two families they represent, using specific details from the text to illustrate the class differences in this 1930s community. You may also bring in other characters. Analyze and comment on the class system.

To be successful with this essay, do not just describe the plot of the story, but use information from the story to make points about social class.

**Requirements:** Make a substantial use of text from the reading, through incorporation of quotations and paraphrases. Length should be at least four full typed, numbered pages using 12 point type, double-spaced. Follow Modern Language Association (MLA) style as you include in-text citations and a separate Works Cited page, not to be counted in the four page length.

After beginning your rough draft in class Feb. 9, visit the Writing Center to get help from a tutor by Feb. 20. This appointment is worth 5 points of the assignment. Have the Writing Center stamp the draft reviewed and attach it to the revision you turn in. **Bring two copies of the rough draft to class for a workshop Feb. 14.** Turning in a copy of this rough draft is worth 10 points of the assignment. If you wish instructor feedback on your rough draft, you must make an appointment during office hours. Bring your latest version of the essay to class Feb. 16 for a further workshop. **Turn in the revision, attached to the draft reviewed and stamped by the Writing Center, at the start of class Feb. 21.** Read it out loud to yourself and clarify your wording before printing the draft that you will turn in for grading. Check spelling, punctuation and verb tenses. **Late papers will be marked down.** Students who arrive late to class may forfeit a portion of the grade for this paper.



D

13 April 2017

### Upgrade to Downgrade

"We're moving to another city, Nataly..." I still remember hearing my mother saying these words like it was yesterday. I knew we had fallen into a really bad place financially, but I didn't think it was bad enough to the point that my parents had to sell the Condo in Montebello that we were living in. We ended up moving to the city of El Sereno, where we currently still live. My mom was able to get a job as an apartment manager which was very convenient for us at the time because she didn't have to pay rent since she was working for the company. Moving day came, and I remember driving into the city of El Sereno and just looking around at the streets and the small businesses covered in graffiti that lined the block. At first glance I knew this neighborhood was going to be much different from the living style my family and I were used to. I was nine years old and it was easy to be quickly influenced by others around me but I knew that I had to choose to decide whether I allowed the people in the neighborhood to influence me for the better or for the worst.

Growing up my family would usually move around from one place to another. I was used to hearing that we were packing up and moving away, but we always moved into really nice high low-income middle class neighborhoods such as Korea Town, Montebello, and Bakerfield. I was used to feeling safe around my community and being able to walk out on the block without my mom worrying too much about me. I never worried about having to walk on broken pavement and tripping over it if I wasn't paying close attention. So it was very new for me to pack up and move into a really low-income neighborhood such as El Sereno that is full of gangsters and dirty streets. It was not only new to me but it was also new to my family, we were always used to going out for walks around the block at night or just driving around the neighborhood with no

worries. But it all drastically changed when we moved into the city of El Sereno, we had been in the neighborhood before to visit family but we never saw us living here until we were hit financially when the economy dropped during and many jobs were lost during 2007-2008. In the song "No Church in the Wild", written by Kanye West, it explains the lives that gangsters carry threw out their life, the oppression they feel within the neighborhood and what they do as a way to manifest themselves such as taking control over their neighborhoods and create fear within the people. Kanye mentions how people in these neighborhood start to live under their own set of rules because there being dictated by a group, "Human being in a mob... [form] a new religion" (West. "No Church in the Wild". Roc-A-Fella Records.2012) This illustrates how the people living in this neighborhood have created their own set of rules to follow in order to stay out of trouble with the gangs, as well as the rules gangs have set for themselves and the people around them. This was relatively new to my family, we never had to oblige under a set of rules in order to stay safe within our neighborhood. We had to learn what streets were off limits for us at certain times and started to follow a curfew that was implemented by the gang members around my neighborhood if you didn't want to end up being shot on accident.

Regardless of what this neighborhood was, we had to continue living our lives as normal as possible. I was enrolled into the nearest public school, Sierra Vista Elementary, which was just down the block from where I lived. I started to attend that school already half way through the second semester which made it a lot harder to make friends since everyone was already comfortable with their group. It was already hard enough moving into a completely new neighborhood and now I had to try to make a new group of friends or at least one friend to get me through the semester. As much as I tried fitting in with the kids at the school I wasn't able to. I spent the last 3 months of school sitting by myself at lunch and watching everybody play with their friends during recess. I felt no connection whatsoever to any of the kids in the school. Everyone just seemed to have a very aggressive and strong attitude and personality. I was

completely different, I cared for my studies and I liked sitting in front of the class and playing with everybody during recess. I started to feel very isolated and excluded from my classmates, it was a completely new feeling to not have a single friend. In *The Streets*, the author, Jorge Luis Borges writes a poem describing his neighborhood in the city of Buenos Aires. Throughout the stanzas Borges explains how he is connected to his neighborhood spiritually "My soul is in the streets of Buenos Aires." Borges felt a strong connection with his neighborhood and his community that he felt it was a piece of who he was. Unlike me I felt completely unconnected to my neighborhood.

The only connection I seemed to have with my neighborhood was financially and having family with the same migrational status here in the U.S. But even with these two connections I still felt completely un-relatable with everybody around me. I soon came to realize that the people in my neighborhood were actually used to living in poverty and having this type of life style so they didn't really seem to bother wanting to escape it. My family on the other hand wasn't used to living in these type of circumstances, we were working hard to get back on our feet again; and we did. Seeing the comfort of these people living in poverty and in a beat down neighborhood motivated me to work hard in school. I was scared of being too comfortable in this community to the point of not wanting to leave. Like in *Tattoos on the Heart*, the author, Gregory Boyle, explains the struggles and experiences of gang members he has come across in his lifetime. Boyle explains how he helped many homies realize that there is a better life out there besides living in low-income and gang infested neighborhoods. I felt a connection with one of the homies, Speedy. He was a really well known gangster for always getting into trouble but Boyle helped him realize he had to pursue a better life for himself "...Speedy moved away from the projects...and [was] surprised...where his story [had] taken him."(Boyle p 58,60). His life took a positive turn once he moved out of the projects and into a different neighborhood, he found a job in an oil refinery in Richmond, got married, and had three children that he loved

reading with and spending time. Like Speedy I hope to move away from this neighborhood and better myself as a person, and look back at this past experience and say that it influenced me to want a better life for myself and for my family.



Fig.1. Palm Trees in El Sereno Image by Waltar, Flickr. *Taco Friendly parklet*. 2013.

I personally connect to the Palm Trees that fill the city of El Sereno because they are a representation of myself and my family. Palm trees are a symbol of overcoming and resurrection. They grow out surpassing everything beneath them. I see myself as these palm trees. I'm trying to grow and reach out of this neighborhood like these palm trees. I want to start of my growth from the very low and be able to over pass this obstacle of living in this neighborhood. These palm trees are also a symbol of my family because palm trees are also considered a foreign plant that was brought over from Mexico and other islands. I consider my family and I as being foreigners to this neighborhood. We moved over for economical reasons and stand out from the rest because of our customs and beliefs are very different from the rest of the neighborhood. As a family we didn't allow the neighborhood of El Sereno to influence us negatively or change our beliefs. Instead to push us to reach out to be the best we could.

I eventually found my escape from the neighborhood of El Sereno. I started to attend school in the next city over, Alhambra. Alhambra was a city I was able to connect with and find a sense of community even though I didn't personally live in that city. I attended school in the

city of Alhambra from middle school to high school and made very close connections with many people in that neighborhood. I was finally able to find a sense of belonging with people that had similar values and perspectives as mine. I was able to find friends and people that included me with them instead of isolating me. This was my way of being one step closer to getting out of the city I didn't want to belong to. I was able to be greatly influenced by many amazing teachers I met over the course of years and mentors that pushed me to pursue my dream of college. Which led me to be where I currently am right now, California State University of Los Angeles. This has helped me find myself as a person as well as the community I truly feel I belong too.

We decide whether we want to allow our neighborhood to influence us for the better or the worst. I chose to not allow my neighborhood to influence me negatively because I knew what life style I would have if I allowed gang related affiliation into my life. Instead I saw my neighborhood as a way of helping me influence my decision of wanting to better myself as an individual and wanting a better life for myself and for my family. As well as learning how to take the positive from the negative and make the best of it.

## Works Cited

Borges, Jorge Luis. *The Streets*. 1969

Boyle, Gregory. *Tattoos on the Heart*. Free Press, 2010

West, Kanye. "No Church in the Wild." *Watch the Throne*. Rock-A-Fella

E

17 April 2017

### War Economics: Marginal Benefits > Marginal Costs

The art of sharing personal accounts is what has made humanity develop into a caring and understanding world. Personal accounts of experiences helps people learn, individually and globally. Without knowing the damaging effects that the bombs on Japan had, there would have already been another major atomic bomb dropped somewhere else in the world. All narratives, factual and personal, are vital. War narratives have the potential to be harmful to children and future generations, but because of the humanity and depth of understanding they bring, the leash constraining the telling of narratives should be loosely held.

Records of events can be reported in numerous manifestations; all of which have different effects. The forms of expression and representation variate from music, paintings, photography, verbal story telling, and sole factual first person accounts such as those found in history textbooks. Famous Academy Award song writer and singer, M.I.A., has successfully told her perspective of oppression in countries caused by war with her song, "Borders." Spanish painter, Salvador Dali, represented his view of death in war through his paint, "The Face of War." "The Face of War" is a painting that includes multiple skulls in one enormous skull. Although unlife-like, Dali captures the horror he experienced with one single painting. With this painting, he shows the reality of war - pain and death. Each of the skulls' eyes are weary with sorrow, and one can see the dread in their sloping eyes. The actual skulls, of course, represent the dead. Both,

pain and death, are particularly shunned in social media and educational publications because of the strain it may cause veterans and the ability to disturb children. While the reasons for censoring graphic images such as, “The Face of War,” blanketing the truth from potential soldiers and even civilians is not justifiable.

Other people, such as photographers, have also been able to capture the reality of war. Photographer, Joe Rosenthal, shot the famous image titled, “Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima (1945)”. The photo is an image of five American soldiers who are holding up the United States flag on the Japanese island. The shot perfectly embodies the relief experienced when victory is gained in war as well as the strength and effort put into war. While this photo was praised, winning the highly respected Pulitzer Prize, other photos are not. Sanitized images tend to have more glory versus graphic, unpublished ones due America’s “helicopter mom” need to shelter its children and veterans. Kenneth Jarecke, a photographer, encapsulated the very true and very disturbing aspect of war, agony. In 1991, Jarecke took the photo of a “charred man” (DeGhett 74). The image is graphic enough to see pieces of his skin folding in and the pain this man underwent all through the sole capturing of his burnt face. The reason why America is not fond of not only Jarecke’s image, but other violent accounts, is due to the fact that a clean battle is the misperception and hopeful lie that people tightly hold.

There is death, there is no harm. There is death, there are no lives lost; America’s closely embraced fallacy of a narrative that is strongly pushed upon the public. “The Atlantic’s, Conor Friedersorf argues, (sanitized images) make it “easier to accept bloodless language” such as 1991 references to “surgical strikes” or modern day terminology like “kinetic warfare” (DeGhett 74). The vocabulary used to describe war, as mentioned by DeGhett, removes humanity from the



bloody situation. Images of men holding up a flag, aerial views of war fields, and of military material are preferred to fall under the immaculate warfare terminology (74). But the carefully chosen trimmed reports allows America to believe one thing: “nobody ever died” during drastic times (81).

However, the want for cleansed war chronicles is understandable. Truthful accounts, whether in photography or personal narratives, have the potential to scar small children and cause post traumatic stress to younger generations. Hillman Prize winner, Sarah Stillman, interviewed Hiroshima survivor, Tomiko Shoji in her article, “Hiroshima and the Inheritance of Trauma.” Shoji explains that she was always hesitant and afraid of sharing her identity because many people would reject her due to possible genetic defects she is might carry (Stillman 445). Although her fears were rational, she gained enough courage to share her story with loved ones, especially her granddaughter, Sabath. Sabath recalls that she learned of her grandmothers narrative at the young age of six and was very disturbed by it (445). They took a trip once to a river where her mother described it as “a blood river and people would jump into it and their skin would burn off” (445-46). The trip to the river was then followed by a trip to a local museum where Sabath viewed statues of children her height who had their skin liquefied and clothes charred (446). The vexing tale and statues nonetheless scarred Sabath. Viewing those situations as a young child distressed Sabath. Not only was this little six year old distraught, but she was also left traumatized; therefore the cost of effecting younger generations. For instance, Sabath’s crying occurred more frequent due to her newly obtained knowledge of what Shoji went through. Sabath’s post traumatic stress was evident in her new fear of planes. “Each time she saw a plane in the air, she panicked just as her grandmother continued to do” (446). Shoji’s granddaughter is

only one example of a child effected from true war accounts, but it is critical to realize the numerous other children that have been and can be caused tribulation.

Although precise and multi-faceted explanations of the terror of war can be harmful to young children, the decision to censor them should not be made by corporations or the government, but rather parents themselves. Jarecke, the photographer who captured the photo of a charred man, or rather his photograph, was shunned. United States newspaper editors did not even receive the image on their desks (DeGhett 80). America extracted the very possibility of viewing the reality of war. Removing the ability to share multiple accounts, despite graphics removes empathy and understanding that is necessary in humanity. Instead of displaying an actual man suffering, most news sources chose to present images that focused on “grainy shots and video footage of the roofs of targeted buildings” (76). The decision to eliminate humanity from war eliminates “the empathy that Jarecke says is crucial in photography, particularly photography that is meant to document death and violence” (78). Exposing suffering, during and after wartime, is what ignites understanding of the harsh reality. If suffering is not known, detachment occurs, which is only natural. But if sorrow is demonstrated, people often find themselves seeing a deeper meaning to everything and feeling remorse or respect for the other being.

Stillman references Shoji’s suffering: “Later would some, like Shoji, come to discover that the most devastating aftereffects were like ghosts: coming and going on a whim, wreaking forms of havoc offer incomprehensible to outsiders and, sometimes even to those who suffered it” (Stillman 444). Shoji experienced negative effects as instantly as the bomb dropped. She hid her identity as a hibakusha, “explosion-affected person,” to avoid being disregarded for marriage

(444-45). When her husband found out, he was furious, describing her as “spoiled goods” (445). She endured more effects later down the road. From being afraid of planes, to “crazy episodes,” to her teeth falling out, Shoji suffered greatly (445). Her languish, as well as bomb survivors and soldiers, often goes unnoticed, unattended. Perhaps if more narratives were told such as Shoji’s, or more images were shown like Jarecke’s, the rest of America could comprehend, empathize, and attend these sufferers - healing could be more feasible for them. While they would be on the road to recovery, America would be on the road to acceptance of reality. For all one knows, further wars would be thought through just a tad bit more, possibly defunded, or praised, but there would still be a great sense of understanding.

Depth and humanity is key to grasping reality. When reality is hidden to shield children and further generations, it banishes reality; it banishes depth and humanity. “In the end, of course, a true war story is never about war. It’s about the special way that dawn spreads out on a river when you know you must cross the river and march into the mountains and do things you are afraid to do. It’s about love and memory. It’s about sorrow. It’s about sisters who never write back and people who never listen” (O’Brien 79). Various and authentic narratives of war and suffering should not be in restricted and prohibited, they should be free.

## Works Cited

- Deghett, Torie Rose “The War Photo No One Would Publish.” *Emerging: Contemporary Readings for Writers*. 3rd ed. Ed. Barclay Barrios. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s. pp. 74-82. 2016.
- O’Brien, Tim. “How to Tell a True War Story.” *The Things They Carried*. NY: First Mariner Books, 2009, pp. 64-81.
- Stillman, Sarah. “Hiroshima and the Inheritance of Trauma.” *Emerging: Contemporary Readings for Writers*. 3rd ed. Ed. Barclay Barrios. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s. pp. 443-47. 2016.

F

Feb. 1, 2017

### The Identity Search

“No one leaves home, unless home is the mouth of the shark”. Immigrants go from one country to for one reason, in search of a better life for themselves or for their loved ones, but imagine being a teenager and being sent to another country because your family thought it was what’s best for you. You're alone in this new place so you begin to question who you are and what your purpose in this life is. In the novel “Persepolis 2”, by Marjane Satrapi, it explains the journey of a teenage girl moving to a new place and learning how to adapt to this change such as different life styles and customs. Marjane searches for her identity in her Iran and in Vienna, but instead finds herself being alone, forcing herself into the wrong crowds, and battling depression all at the same time with not a single idea of who she is, or who she’d like to be. Marji struggles to find an identity in her homeland Iran, and in her new home Vienna because she can’t find an identity, many negative things come her way intervening with her growing up.

Marjane in Vienna and in Iran slowly begins to see the people who come into her life, end up walking out of it leaving Marjane physically and mentally alone. Marjane begins her life in Vienna as nerd like girl who is curious and questions just about everything. Once Marjane is sent to Vienna to a boarding house, as the holidays begin to approach Marjane begins to become aware that she will be spending these holidays on her own. One frame shows Marjane on the side of her bed looking inconsolable and all alone after realizing the streets and the boarding house

will be alone since everyone would return home to spend the day with their families (Satrapi 15). In Vienna Marjane is at a party with her friend Julia, the frame shows everyone in the party having a great time, I chose this frame to focus on mainly on the image for the reason that everyone here is having a good time yet she is in the corner crouched over her knees all alone, this image resembles Marjane life and how different everyone around her is (31). Marjane anticipates her return to Iran and excited to be back home. Marjane hits the rock bottom of loneliness after she returns to Iran, here she becomes overwhelmed by what she hears, what she sees, and what she feels it all becomes an awakening to her emptiness. In the frame it states “ Nevertheless, since I was drunk, I managed to graze myself”, at this moment Marjane felt so alone, with no identity or purpose that she felt taking her life would be the best solution (118). Marjane cannot seem to find her identity because she doesn't seem to fit in-in either Iran or Vienna because the people who are in her life are only their temporarily as she tries please them all, she changes herself for them and once they disappear from her life, so does the person she pretended to be, leaving her feeling alone, without a place to call home, and with no identity.

Another reason why Marjane doesn't seem to form some type of identity for herself in Vienna or Iran is because she desperately feels she has to belong somewhere so she ends up hanging out with wrong crowd one too many times. She first starts off by hanging out with a girl named Julia who happens to be 4 years older then her, she then introduces Marjane to her friends and states “An eccentric, a punk, two orphans and third-worlder, we made quite a group of friends...”, the reason why she says they made quite a group of friends was because they were all so different from one another, since Marjane however wasn't welcomed with other girls her age she felt that trying to be like this group of people and hanging out with them it would help

her uncover who she truly was, that however was not what happened (13). In Vienna Marjane meets a boy named Markus who becomes her boyfriend, once Marjane meets him, she cuts most ties with other people to devote her time to him. Markus was a big smoker and although Marjane didn't like to do it, she did it for him, she tried changing herself to fit his expectations which mainly just pushed her away even more from uncovering her true self. Markus sends Marjane to go buy "cheap hash" and she goes and states "I went in. I was very very scared. It was the first time that i'd set foot in such a sordid place", here Marjane basically explains to us how it was not like her to do something like that yet she tried to be in a way rebellious because Markus liked a girls like that therefore she tried to be like that for him and in the end that also didn't get her anywhere (68). When Marjane returns to Iran she hangouts with a group of her old friends, here Marjane is asked "Have you had sex? of course, I'm nineteen" although she hadn't she said she did to try and make herself seem mature and grown up , the girls however were disgusted by Marjanes "actions" which hadn't even really happened (116). Marjane tried fitting in with too many different types of crowds that she never really decided who she actually wanted to be and id like to believe that this was because she was never satisfied with any of the identities she had attempted to become.

Lastly, Marjane struggled with uncovering her true self because at the same time that she was trying to uncover who she wanted to be, she was battling depression without her even noticing it. I first begin to notice she's going through a type of depression when she calls herself a "vegetable" after viewing herself change and describing it so negatively, I feel that she saw other people changing in a good way and she wanted to look like them but instead she only saw herself changing in a bad way (35). She looks very depressed after seeing a scene on TV from

Iran, it displayed buildings being bombed and becoming completely distorted. Marjane states “I wanted to forget everything, to make my past disappear, but my unconscious caught up with me”, here she thinks that by erasing away all her memories she would be happy and take her away from the depression she was in (40). Marjane spent a lot of her time being very sad that in the end I think she just gave up with trying to figure out who she was suppose to be she just viewed herself very negatively. Marjane feels very sad after she has a fight with her grandmother, “My grandma had just yelled at me for the first time in my life. I decided that it would also be my last” (137). This moment when Marjane’s grandmother yells at her it takes her back to a dark place since this is a person who means so much to her. In relation to Marjane, my mother herself said that after she left her country at the age of 18 and came to the U.S., depression was one of the things that followed her and no matter how hard she tried to get away from it, it was just like a dark cloud that never seemed to leave and along with it came many other negative factors to her life. Marjane battles this depression and darkness that seems to follow her around wherever she goes. She attempts to try things such as forgetting her past and just nothing but to struggle in finding her place in this world.

When immigrants arrive to a new country, everything becomes new to them a lot of these immigrants leave their lives behind along with the people they once were and instead come with an open mind in hopes of trying to find their identity and a better life. Some however struggle in finding who they because they try to please others just as Marjane Satrapi did for a majority of her teenage years she did what other people wanted her to do, and nothing for herself. Marjane never really formed a sense of identity because she always felt alone, she hung out with the wrong crowd, and she was going through depression which forbid her from dedicating time find



herself in Vienna and in Iran. In most cases with immigrants this tends to happen while going onto this better journey but as Kellie Elmore once said “Sometimes, the only way to ever find yourself is to get completely lost”.

## Works Cited

Satrapı, Marjane. *Persepolis Volume 2: The story of a Return*. 1<sup>st</sup>ed, New York: Pantheon 2004.

Print.

G

16 April 2017

### Assimilation of the Masses

As human beings, there is this psychological need of wanting to be accepted, loved, and feel a sense of belonging; this is the result of humans being one of the most social creature on the planet. These psychological wants are what drives individuals to behave in a manner that dilutes their own individual identity, as a mean to fit into the constructs of society, otherwise known as the masses. If for some reason an individual is excluded from the masses and feels disconnected, then this leads to the need, and or want, of assimilation of that individual to better fit into society. Assimilation can be represented by the phrase “go along to get along,” and what this means is that if a person want to thrive and be accepted in society then they need to conform and relinquish some personal traits, and adapt to their surrounding environment. While assimilation might occur intentionally or without a person realizing it, it still happens to everyone to a certain degree and affects their individual identity. Assimilation infringes on one’s identity because it causes internal conflict within ourselves, which can lead to both mental and physical damage to occur, some being temporary and others permanent.

Ideally, an individual should have some sort balance between self-actualization, in which they feel content with who they are as an individual, and assimilation, to prevent from one’s identity from being infringed. The idea is further solidified by the terms, True Self and False Self as stated by Kenji Yoshino, in his article “The New Civil Rights”, in which he clarifies the relationship between True Self and False Self. Our True Self can be associated with an individual’s authentic identity, while the False Self is associated with presenting a front for others to see. Yoshino discusses that the True Self can only assure its own survival with the aid

from the False Self as stated with, “My gay self, True Self, was hidden behind an ostensibly straight False Self,” (Yoshino 542) showing how this False Self is a defense mechanism to protect the wellbeing of the individual. An analogy for this relationship could be that of siblings, where the True Self is younger one of the two, and the False Self is the eldest who needs to look after the fragile one. So, the difference between assimilation and True and False Self is that assimilation deals with having to conform to strive in society, while True and False Self is the idea of self-preservation.

Individual’s identities are not damaged when it involves the True and False Self, but in regards to assimilation, this is when a person must not only adjust their personality, but also their ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious belief, language, and so forth just to find some sort of acceptance in society. This harms the person’s identity because they feel the need to change who they are entirely just to feel included in the masses. Assimilation and the issues that come along with this ideology of “go along to get along,” are shown in Wesley Yang’s article “Paper Tigers”, which deals with how Asian Americans have a binding stereotype of having to be proficient in the field of education but not be expected to be in the executive positions that are often exclusively for white males. Yang’s use of Asian-Americans is a place holder that is meant to be interchangeable for any individual, because expectations are placed on anyone and everyone in our society. And if expectations can not be met, then this leads to internal conflict that will cause an individual to question if they are good enough to be accepted. Leading to assimilation.

An example that is from the article “Paper Tigers”, is the individual know as Eddie Huang, but in this case, the person goes against the social norms of having to assimilate, in a manner that goes like this, “America is about money, and if you can make your culture

commodifiable, then you're relevant" (Yang 532). Since American culture is heavily based on the all mighty dollar, Eddie Huang gives up the idea of having to alter his own identity to that of the stereotypical Asian-American to make headway in the nation. Because if his culture can be used to turn a profit, then what is the point of him alter his True Self. The openness of Eddie stands from his idea that social assimilation can go to hell, because if he finds self-happiness in his life style, then what difference does it make how others view him, "you're going to like me or otherwise I am kicking your ass till you do" (532). His way of life allows for him to have something very few have, freedom to behave in a manner that is no one else's but his. This personality is very aggressive and in your face, something that would not typically be expected from an Asian seeing as how even Yang claims that the Asian men are quiet and docile.

There is nothing wrong with these docile men who are taking classes on how to hit on women, other than they are the average shy type of guys who struggle with the ladies, but this need for change causes them to assimilate to the idea of male masculinity. This idea comes from people thinking that to get the attention of women, the best course of action is to change into a winner, who emanates confidence and has just a bit of arrogance. As unproblematic as this might seem, once the men change their behavior they no longer present their True Self, but a False Self instead; an individual who is no longer an accurate representation of themselves, but instead a representation of what society expects. They lost their own identity as a mean to get the ladies and if that was good or not was entirely up to them, because at the end of the day, it is up to the individual to make the judgment if assimilating is worth the coast of dishonesty to one's individuality.

While none of these previous examples may seem harmful, there is a danger to the young men and women of the nation when it comes to assimilating to the popular idea of beauty. Every

man must have the body of a Roman God while women should be the living embodiment of slender waist and large breast. If a person becomes infatuated with this notion of beauty standards, then they run the risk of causing harm to themselves. It is estimated by the NEDA that there are around 20 million cases of eating disorders each year in the United States and this is because North American media portrays an unrealistic standard beauty standard for both men and men, no questions asked. Starving yourself just to obtain the 'perfect' body is not something a person should do, because everyone's body is different thanks to their DNA, and no amount of starvation is going to change that. This is not helped with how media portrays both sexes and how celebrities promote the idea of what it means to be beautiful. If beauty is in the eye of the beholder than people should not worry themselves to death about this issue.

If a person is unsatisfied with how they behave then this is because their own identity's have been change to fit the mold that society expects from every one of us and it is these ideas of having to assimilate to be wanted is what causes harm to the body and mind. Having a False Self is fine if you keep in mind the wellbeing of yourself and others, but what is not okay is when a person completely alters who they were just to make others happy because at the end of the day you are responsible for your own happiness, and no one else.

## Work Cited

Yang, Wesley. "Paper Tigers," *Emerging Contemporary Reading for Writers*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Ed. Barclay

Barrios. Boston; Bedford/st. Martin's 2016.

Yoshino, Kenji, "The new civil rights." , " *Emerging Contemporary Reading for Writers*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

Ed. Barclay Barrios. Boston; Bedford/st. Martin's 2016

H

April 6, 2017

### Malala's Activism

When an individual goes through certain obstacles in their life that leave a big impact it could often lead to wanting to help others that went through the same situation. This is what happens with Malala Yousafzai. Malala was a young girl that lived in Swat Valley in a town named Mingora. In Swat she lived with her family; her father Ziauddin, her mother Toor Pekai, and her two brothers Khushal and Atal. Her father owned a school named Khushal school, which had to do with Malala's love for education. Malala loved school with a passion that her life seemed to revolve around it. When a group named the Taliban came to Swat her education was put at risk. The Taliban didn't want girls going to school because they thought it was un-Islamic. Of course, Malala and her father didn't agree with the Taliban, so they started speaking out against them. Malala's activism was created and influenced by her father when he would fight for education issues and for the people of Swat's rights, as well her name being inspired by a heroine Malalai Maiwand and the problems caused in Swat by the Taliban. All these experiences inspired Malala to write her memoir named *I Am Malala*.

When Malala was born her father Ziauddin knew that she was going to be a special person. He never treated her less than her brothers just because she was a woman. In their Pashtun culture when women are born they are not celebrated like when men are born. But her father celebrated her even though it was against their culture. He was the one that named her Malala, which was inspired by a heroine in Afghanistan, Malalai Maiwand. Malalai was with her father and fiancé in the battle of Afghanistan and the British in 1800. She helped defeat the British with her bravery. In her memoir Malala states, "She saw the men were losing, and when the



flagbearer fell she lifted her white veil up high and marched onto the battlefield in front of the troops (pg14).” Malalai inspired the troops by telling them not to give up but then was killed under fire. Malalai was seen as a brave woman that was willing to risk her life to help others. Bravery was what Malalai had and was recognized for and Malala's father wanted his daughter to have those traits in her name. Little did Malala's father know that later on she would risk her life to fight for others rights and have her own inspiring story of bravery.

Ziauddin, Malala's father, was a person that inspired her to fight for her rights. He was an activist for people's rights and I think that his passion influenced Malala. Ziauddin started his activism in college and continued when he started to settle down with his family in Swat. He was an outspoken man that wasn't afraid to speak out on issues that others were afraid to. Malala in her memoir talks about how he used to help with the issues that Swat had and how recognized her was. Her father was well known not just for speaking out but his speeches and poems about peace and love. Malala gives an example of her father's urge to help people by writing, “He and his friends set up some thing called the Global Peace Council which, despite its name had very local concerns...the organization's aim was serious to preserve the environment of Swat and promote peace and education among local people (Pg. 84-5).” She explains how involved her father was to attack issues in his local community. Her father also spoke out and got threats not just for going against the Taliban but having girls in his school. Malala got her activist qualities, as you can see, from her father. She fights for what she believes is right, which is education for every child but specifically girls.

When the Taliban took over Swat every belief was turned around. It all started with a radio station Mullah FM, that was hosted by a leader of the Taliban named Fazlullah. Fazlullah started saying that women could not go outside without men that were relatives or uncovered.

The women in Swat had to wear a veil every time they were outside. Fazlullah would often say on his radio show that he only wanted to speak to the women and the men should step outside. He also prohibited DVD's and TV's. He made the local people throw away all of their electronics. Malala's family didn't throw their TV away but were really careful about not being caught. Later on Fazlullah attacked people who let girls go to school. He made threats to Ziauddin's school because he let girls and boys go to his school. Malala didn't understand how Fazlullah didn't want girls going to school because based on her understanding of the Quran it didn't make women less than men. But, the Taliban won the battle and at some point all Swat schools that let girls get an education were shut down. When this happened Malala was devastated. Her and her father started doing interviews to get the public to know what the Taliban had done. Malala was being more outspoken at that time and the Taliban took notice. She wrote for a website about the Taliban taking over and how much it had affected Swat. When all this was happening she started to get a new appreciation for her education. She wrote in her memoir, "Though we loved school, we hadn't realized how important education was until the Taliban tried to stop us. Going to school, reading and doing our homework wasn't just a way of passing time, it was our future (pg. 146)." Malala wanted to keep going to school and be able to have a future. Her father supported her by going with her to her speeches and interviews. Together they were a team and they planned to make a change.

Malala and everyone knew that being an activist brought exposure and threat from the Taliban. But she still did interviews talking about girl's education and the Taliban took notice and were not too pleased. The Taliban later was defeated and the children were able to go back to school. But no one noticed that the Taliban were still around and had kept tabs on Malala. On the month of October 2012, when she was in the bus going to school the bus got stopped in one

of the army check points. There a man asked who Malala was and then shot her in her face. Malala didn't exactly know what was going on but only remembered thinking about a revision she had the next day. Malala survived after a life and death situation, but was at risk of losing her life.

Malala after went on with her life and is still outspoken about girl's education. She started her own foundation called the Malala foundation. The foundation is designed to provide education for every girl up until the 12<sup>th</sup> year. Malala being an activist was inspired by her father, Malalai Maiwand, and the Taliban. She did what everyone was afraid to do at the time the Taliban took over Swat; she went against them. Her father was her role model to do so because he always spoke out on the issues that were important to him. Even though, Malala risked her life for the rights of girls she helped a lot of girls now have an education. Malala's story was inspiring to see that one doesn't have to be a well known person to make a change. One doesn't have to have the power or the money to speak out and be heard. Malala was just a civilian like most of us and spoke out on what she believed in. She was brave and took a risk that she knew would cause her life. She took it because she believed she could make a change no matter the obstacles she had to face. She took all the threats the Taliban gave her and the hate of other people saying she was going against her beliefs. Malala carried all that on her shoulders and didn't give up. That is something to admire and look up to.

Upon reading Malala's memoir I had observations and realizations. Before reading her story I never really thought about how different education could be in different countries. I learned that education is a right that every human being should have and no one should be able to interfere with that right. When Malala started sharing her experience about how the simple fact of being a women affected how she was treated it made me realize that the gender inequality is

still an issue that needs to be addressed. Whether one is a woman or man it should not affect what education or opportunities one should have. Malala in Swat was prevented to get an education, while her brothers were required to be educated just for being men. Malala's whole story was fascinating to learn and be able to make connections to my own life. I know that my life in America is way different than hers, but one connection I made was the issue of gender discrimination. Where I live and in other countries this is an issue that is still present. Malala's memoir brought that issue to light and made me realize that there is still change to be made. Her story also shows that not every situation or obstacle has to stay as a bad memory, but it can be turned into an inspiration to make a change. Her memoir inspired me to open myself to learn about issues that need to be addressed and I hope that it also inspired and affected others in a positive way.

#### Work Cited

Lamb, Christina, and Yousafzai. *I Am Malala*, Little Brown and Company, 2015, New York.

I

## Taking Education for Granted

Education is the pathway towards having a successful life. It can provide you your dream job, a comfortable lifestyle, prove others wrong who said you'll never make it, or set the example for younger siblings on what you can accomplish. Malala Yousafzai's view is that every girl that is deprived of education deserves the right to learn. Our voice is the most powerful weapon we have and should be able to speak out for what's right. Malala Yousafzai emphasizes that "one child, one teacher and the use of a book, paper, and pen can change the world." Here in the United States we take education for granted. Many students wake up every morning and dread coming to school. They don't realize that there's many people that don't have that privilege and would love an opportunity to learn and attend school to receive the education they dream of.

Malala Yousafzai was born on July 12, 1997, in Mingora, Pakistan. As a child, she became an advocate for girls' education, which resulted in the Taliban issuing a death threat against her. On October 9, 2012, a gunman shot Malala when she was traveling home from school. She survived, and has continued to speak out on the importance of education. She was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. In 2014, she was nominated again and won, becoming the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Although Malala was in critical condition having to be in a coma for at least a week, that did not stop her from fighting for what she believed was right. The lifestyle she was intended to live turned out to be the complete opposite. Instead of serving her father and brothers for a lifetime, she achieved and strived for greater goals.

In the book "*I Am Malala*" by Malala Yousafzai and Christina Lamb, Malala shares a part of her childhood. "We all played cricket on the street or rooftops together, but I knew as we got older the girls would be expected to stay inside. We'd be expected to cook and serve our brothers and fathers. While boys and men could roam freely about town, my mother and I could not go out without a male relative to accompany us, even if it was a five-year-old boy!" (Ch.1pg.26) This was the typical Pakistani tradition. Following tradition was something all girls were forced to do. If they broke those traditions, they knew the consequences they had to face. In the Pakistan culture, it dictates that women are born to follow tradition and honor men. Women that oppose are considered dangerous, rebellious, and often immoral, which is why many Pakistani women are subjected to horrifying bestiality and horror crimes. Women are tortured, but the form of torture is not confined to mere slapping, hitting, and kicking. They are shot, vaginally electrocuted, raped or brutally disfigured. Malala's father, Ziauddin Yousafzai let her be anything she wanted to become. Malala decided at a very early age she wouldn't become the typical Pakistan housewife for all her life. If this were to be the path Malala would've taken, she would've sacrificed her way of living now to simply staying at home cooking and serving her father and brothers. The day Malala has children of her own to care for and a husband she'd obey is what will remain for the rest of her life. No accomplishments, just duties to get done. Her father always said, "Malala will be free as a bird" (Ch.1pg26). She broke tradition, fought for what was right, and her father motivated and encouraged her along the way. Though what she fought for ended up getting shot in the face, she recovered and to this day continues to prove the Taliban wrong.

As a child, I was told that if I graduated from college I would become successful. Yet, no one told me about the obstacles I'd be facing along the way. Going to school wasn't a problem at

that time because I always looked forward to learning about new topics, seeing my friends, and playing when it was time for recess. Throughout my elementary years, my mother would scold my siblings and me for watching too much television. She would lecture us on the importance of learning how to speak the English language fluently and tell us to read a book instead. I love reading but it specifically had to be something I was interested in. Weeks later after she had scolded us for watching too much television, my mother canceled cable television and from then on everyone was required to read. My sibling's and I were expected to know our times tables fluently and would be tested by my father. If we'd make a mistake for any reason, we would have to repeat them over again and my father would add a house chore after house chore if we didn't say them correctly.

When I got to the 7<sup>th</sup> grade I knew I didn't want to continue studying. I just wanted to stay at home, surf the web, and take naps. I didn't want to go to school anymore because it was the same usual routine; get up early in the morning, attend class before 8 a.m., stay at school for up to seven hours, then head back home. I hadn't even reached high school yet and I was already considering dropping out. My mother and father changed that for me. I understood then why my father put so much pressure on me to learn mathematics and my mother for making me read so much. Was I about to throw all that knowledge away? Other students don't have that father or mother to encourage them to do well in school. Either they end up on the streets having no one to guide them towards the right direction or they turn out to become no one in life. My parents told me that if I continued my education I would provide them and myself with much more than what they provided me. I agreed and realized that they were right. With an education, I can aim to get my dream job and if I'm hired I'll make money and therefore give my children what my parents couldn't give me.

I'd say that Malala and I share some similarities that have happened through our lifetime. Malala Yousafzai is only a year older than I am, she was raised by both parents and has siblings she can talk to about anything. We both are striving for that specific goal we have set for ourselves. She has accomplished many goals so far but doesn't settle for less. She has risked her life for many girls deprived of education and those girls now look up to Malala for being such a brave advocate. Nonetheless, Malala's parents were the ones that never gave up on her aspirations. The advocating should've stopped the day Malala got shot in the face. But, that didn't stop Malala and although her parents were worried sick they did nothing but support her ambitions for the future. I'm grateful to have both of my parents supporting me and encouraging me to go further than my boundaries. Malala's story has helped me realize how my parents have helped me throughout my education. By supporting me and always motivating me to do more than can be done.

In conclusion, after reading about Malala Yousafzai memoir, my personal views of education have indeed reshaped my understanding of education. I knew that in some countries girls must obey tradition by not being educated and are only to serve their family and family of their own. I did not know that it only took one girl to speak up for many young girls deprived of education, which resulted in Malala getting shot in the face by the Taliban. She recovered and as soon as she had enough strength to fight back she became advocating worldwide about the importance of girls' education. Malala's story is very inspiring because it reminds me that anything is possible. She had a dream and accomplished that by fighting for what she believed was right with the support of her parents. I use to complain when I was younger how difficult school was but look how far I've come. Completing college and receiving my bachelor's degree is just one step closer to fulfilling my dream of getting a job with the Federal Aviation



Administration to become an Air Traffic Controller. I'm privileged to be in the place I am today.

I must give it to my previous teachers for teaching me so much throughout the years, but most importantly my parents for never giving up on me, always motivating and encouraging me throughout my education. Education is indeed a pathway to a successful life.

## Work Cited

Yousafzai, Malala, and Christina Lamb. *I am Malala: the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban*. Web. 15 Mar. 2017.

Kettler, Sara. "Malala Yousafzai." *Biography.com*. A&E Networks Television, 22 Nov. 2016. Web. 15 Mar. 2017.

TheEllenShow. *YouTube*. YouTube, 09 Sept. 2015. Web. 08 Apr. 2017.

"A Daughter Is Born." *I Am Malala*. London, United Kingdom: Orion, 2014. 13-26. Print.

J

12 April 2017

### The Real Face of War

Photographs of war show us the real face of war. War is gruesome, sad, and very hard to look at; but if we do not see these war images we will never know the reality of what war really is. War is often times censored to prevent the people from knowing the truth, but hiding the reality regarding the pain and suffering people go through of not only the soldiers, but also the innocent people and everyday civilians who live in these war zones is not a solution to help end war. Being aware of what is going on in war zones and those being affected by war gives us inspiration and motivation to possibly try and stop war, due to its negative affects on so many innocent people. A way to educate others and ourselves about the topic of war is through the knowing of war narratives. War Narratives are real life accounts or images of real situations going on in war that are affecting soldiers or simply bystanders. Through war narratives we get a deeper connection to those affected by war because it gives us a deeper look into the suffering associated with war, rather than just the prideful face war can have. The only way to stop war is to know the facts and truths, which is why war narratives should not be censored due to the fact that the narratives allow us to see the reality of what war really is.

The images the media releases are some of the best sources we have at knowing the reality of war. Freelance magazine writer, Torie Rose DeGhett explains, “Sometimes though, omitting an image means shielding the public from the messy, imprecise consequences of a war – making the coverage incomplete, and even deceptive”(75). Not knowing certain facts about war allows us to be unaware of the fact that people are dying,

people are suffering, and more than anything we are doing nothing to stop it. When looking at war photos we get this sense of pride for our country and think that during war we are eliminating the enemy, but never do we stop to think about the innocent people and bystanders who get caught in the crossfire and loose their life.

When it comes to innocent children being affected by war and seeing them suffer many of times is what hits home for a lot of people. An example of innocent children getting caught in the crossfire and suffering would be the photo of the dead child soldier lying on the ground. This child appears to be dead with a gunshot wound to the eye lying probably near a battlefield. Looking at this child, a sense of pure innocence comes across and it is sad to know that his life was taken due to the effects of war. Looking at war images involving children makes us feel very accountable for that child's life. Just thinking what if it was our son/daughter or brother/sister would be very traumatic. Children being hurt in battle is extremely devastating to think about and is unfair that their life had to end that way; therefore, trying to shield the public from war images, will just make society more naive to the thought of war. Often times when we think of war, images like the one of the dead child soldier don't come to mind but rather only the suffering our American soldiers go through. Showing only one side of war is a way of sugar coating war. We should be exposed to all aspects of war, so that we know the many people affected not only the side our media portrays. Looking at reality allows for a better understanding of what really happens because just like the DeGhett says, "And so be it. I mean, war is ugly. Its hideous"(82). Sugarcoating something as awful as war, if unwise to do because the truth gives us power to try and make a difference.

Looking at war images gives us some kind of accountability for what we just seen and it's what we do with that responsibility that counts. Behind these images being viewed are real people who have been affected or lost their lives to the affects of war. When looking at these photos we need to remember that the soldiers behind these photos are someone's son, brother, father, husband, or friend. We need to put ourselves in the family's shoes and think how would we feel to see our family member dead on the dashboard of a truck in the middle of a war zone. One of Jarecke's photographs shows a dead, burned soldier on the dashboard of a truck. This soldier fought until the very end to try and save his life; even until the point of being burned he was still trying to pull himself out of the truck in order to survive. Looking through the war photos there is a sense that many of these soldiers are just trying to survive the violence of war on a daily basis to try and go back to their families one day. Seeing a family member's life ended this way for war is extremely devastating; therefore, DeGhett states, "Photos like Jarecke's not only show that bombs drop on real people; they also make the public feel accountable"(82). Lives are taken on a regular basis in the name of war, but never do we take any action to putting an end to war. Knowing that people are losing their lives, but never doing anything to change that is the part that makes society as a whole feel the most accountable. Going against those who support war and feel that is the only way to resolve issues our country may have is a start to saving so many soldiers and innocent people lives. Some may think the soldiers signed up to fight in war, but not the bystanders caught in the crossfire.

At times when the thought of war comes about we tend to think the bombs and shootings only occur within a premise that only affects soldiers, but it's far from the

truth. War can occur anywhere and affect anybody and knowing that can influence us to try and put a stop to the war. These uncensored war images can be very graphic at times and some may think it's too much, but it doesn't nearly compare to living through war. DeGhett states, "an ability not just to offend the viewer, but to implicate him or her as well"(82), causing the viewers of these war photos to feel a bit uncomfortable and find a connection must happen in order to feel a sense of responsibility to try and help change the situation of war. Getting people to feel a sense of accountability will allow them to voice their opinion about war and hopefully together we can put a stop to this situation that killing so many people because in all reality, "If we're big enough to fight a war, we should be big enough to look at it"(82). Looking at the victims of war a certain way can affect them more than the war damage itself.

The aftermath of war is often more damaging to the victims than war itself, due to the fact of how society views them as survivors. According to the reading, "Hiroshima and the Inheritance of Trauma" if you were a survivor of war you were seen as an outcast in society due to the after effects that the radiation in the bomb carried. Genetics were damaged for those affected by the bombing and the outspread to future generations was something not accepted by others. In the reading Stillman says, "to be a hibakusha, they explained, was not an honorific but a source of shame, a secret to be closely held"(444) because they were, "worried that their genetic material would be perceived as spoiled goods"(445). The reading explains how in World War II the first atomic bomb was dropped in Hiroshima, Japan. This bomb killed so many, destroyed lives, and left some scared forever. Although, survivors were not given the same recognition as those who unfortunately died because they were believed to infect the rest of the population after the

bombing and it should not have been that way. Being an innocent bystander and being affected by war is not their fault, but those who decided to engage in war. Looking back and hearing these stories only shows that we are still living this today due to the ongoing wars. We need to feel accountable when it comes to hearing stories of how much war has affected people knowing that war still continues to separate families and take so many lives. Those people who survived traumatic events like war need to stop feeling accountable for something they were victims of and all of the rest of the people in society need to respect them for everything they have been through. Feeling the sense of accountability will allow us to better understand the victims true feelings and prevent other victims from feeling the same way or going through the same experience. War affects more innocent people than anything, and not only in the present time of war; but also in the aftermath of war.

War is not only affecting people in the present, or those who loose their lives, but it is more for those who survive and have to live with the traumatic memories. As a community we should feel accountability and guilt for those who have to live with different disabilities due to war, which they didn't ask to be involved in. Listening to stories such as Shojis should give us inspiration to feel more accountability towards the topic of war. Although the decision to end war is a big demand, a person feeling accountable is the beginning stages to make a change in order to end the devastating results of war. Besides the physical effects the psychological effects were even worse. According to Stillman, "But perhaps most debilitating were the psychological symptoms that she didn't think she could attribute to the radiation. For thirty or forty years, I was so afraid of thunder and lightning,"(445). The loud sounds or flashy lights would

automatically bring Shoji back to the moment she was in when the bombing occurred and would make her relive the moment over and over causing the extreme psychological damage. After having suffered through physical effects of war and still living with after effects can do a lot of damage to the person, but that can help educate the rest of the population on why war should come to an end. Hearing real life stories of the war effects on a person allows us to better connect to the person and other people possibly affected by the same situation. Being aware is the first step to making a change towards not only ending war, but also helping those who have already been traumatically affected by war. Certain situation during war can affect the rest of your life; whether they be physical or psychological, they can damage you greatly.

War is damaging in every aspect possible and ending war is the only way to prevent stories like these from repeating themselves. War affecting so many innocent people is not a good cycle to continue and therefore becoming more aware of what war really consists of is the only way to stop this horrible situation. Looking at published photos is a great way to know the real war story and feel some sort of empathy to try and stop these innocent children, men, and women from dying. Voicing our opinions towards our government and those in charge of war is a great way to start and fight for a change. Accepting reality and doing something about it is the only option we have now.



K

15 April 2017

### Lessons in "Cora Unashamed"

Throughout history we have seen how social classes play a major part in life. It is a way a person can categorize and degrade a certain group. In the short story "Cora Unashamed," by Langston Hughes, Cora Jenkins is a black maid for the Studevant family in Iowa. In this particular town called Melton, the Jenkins family is introduced as the colored family, and the Studevants as the white and wealthy family. The story portrays how in the mid Depression era-- social status, reputation, and education were valued and desired. However, the lower class people didn't had the same rights as people with a higher status, and therefore both families approached life differently.

Social status is understood as one's position in society and how they are seen as important by a certain group. In many cases we see how people with higher social status have certain expectations due to their hierarchy. In the story, Hughes described the Studevants' family as the employer of Cora. However, Mrs. Art is described in more detail because she was a role model in the community. Hughes explains what Mrs. Art thought about her younger daughter named Jessie, "Her mother was always a little ashamed of stupid Jessie, for Mrs. Art was the civic and social leader of Melton, president of the Woman's Club three years straight, and one of the pillar of her church" (Hughes 3). To Mrs. Art it was unpleasant to have a dull-witted daughter. Mrs. Art was not a common citizen in Melton; she had social leadership where she was a superior figure in the woman's club and served the church. Mrs. Art was the character who was

controlling and very self-conscious. She was a great example of a high status member because she cared about what people said and thought about her family. She was the lady of the society who was capable to make decisions involving Melton.

Maintaining a positive reputation is often a goal to people because it is how others perceive them. Reputation is something people tend to protect or become obsessed with. Hughes portrays Mrs. Art and Pa Jenkins, Cora's father, as preoccupied with what others say about them. In the beginning of the story, Pa Jenkins was ashamed of his daughters, who have left town ashamed because they were pregnant, "One by one, the girls left too, mostly in disgrace. „Ruinin ma name," Pa Jenkins said, „Ruinin ma good name! They can't go out berryin" but they come back in disgrace" (Hughes 2). This shows how reputation was what many people in Melton cared about. Pa Jenkins was not a social leader, unlike Mrs. Art; he was practically insignificant to society and the lowest in the community. However, as he called the pregnancy a „disgrace" it brings a negative attitude because he didn't approve of their actions. This shows how in Melton having reputation was usually important to the characters, and it didn't matter if they were in a lower class status. The focus on reputation reflects to the title of the story, "Cora unashamed", because unlike most of the members in Melton, Cora was not ashamed about not having a good reputation because she didn't care what others said about her pregnancy. She loved her daughter and didn't think of her as a disgrace; Cora was not like Mrs. Art and Pa Jenkins.

In a society education plays a necessary role in shaping the lives of people. With education a person can improve their economic growth and decrease poverty. Throughout the story, the Studevants were presented as a wealthy family, and therefore they were able to have an education. Hughes depicts how the Studevants' wealth was inherited and it's up to their children to fulfill their careers, "Keneth took over the management of the hardware store that Grandpa

had left. Jack went off to college. Mary was a teacher. Only Jessie remained a child-- her last year in high school. Jessie, nineteen now, and rather slow in her studies, graduating at last. In the Fall she would go to Normal” (Hughes 3). This shows how the Studevants had the opportunity to go to college due to having a good economic status. Since the children were grown, they were responsible to keep Mrs. Art proud by attending to a university. Even Mary, the oldest daughter, was an example of a respectable and educated woman. For Keneth and Jack it was easier for them to choose a career, and know that eventually they would have their own resources. Hughes also writes how it didn’t matter if Jessie was not a dedicated student; she was still going to attend college like her siblings.

Sometimes a person cannot continue with their education because they don’t have the resources and all they can do is work. Hughes depicts how Cora did not have the same opportunity to continued attending school, “As a child Cora had no playtime...In the eighth grade she quit school and went to work with the Studevants” (Hughes 1). Cora did not finish school because she became the economic support for her family. This quote portrays what it is like to not have a good economic status. Hughes shows how if a person was economically stable then they have more opportunities in life, and that includes education. Meanwhile, Cora didn’t have a childhood where going to school was a routine because instead she helped her mother with her younger siblings. Since the Jenkins didn't have any inheritance, they were the family who had to work just to keep sustaining themselves.

To many people having a privilege is something that has been normalized and established in society. This means that privileges play an essential part in social classes. However, these advantages and special rights are often available to a certain group. In this case, the Studevants have many privileges in Melton. In a particular scene, Hughes writes about the time Mrs. Art

found out Jessie had a boyfriend and that his father was a Greek man who sold ice-cream. Mrs. Art's motive then became to separate her daughter from her boyfriend. "Indeed his father lost his license, „due to several complaints by the mothers of children, backed by the Woman's Club," that he was selling tainted ice-cream. Mrs. Art Studevant had started a campaign to rid the town of objectionable tradespeople and questionable character" (Hughes 5). Mrs. Art thought it was her right to protect and warn the community about the toxic ice-cream being sold. Hughes makes it clear that only the higher status citizens are qualified to give their opinions and make complaints toward others. For that reason, Mrs. Art's plan was a success because Jessie never saw her boyfriend again because his family left town. In contrast in Cora's life, she does not have the privilege to share her opinion because she was not worth hearing. In one scene, Cora was being shut up because she was telling Mrs. Art that Jessie was pregnant. "Scandalization! Oh, my lord! Jessie was in trouble. „She ain't in trouble neither," Cora insisted. „No trouble having a baby you want. I had one." „Shut up, Cora!" „Yes, m'am... But I had one." „Hish, I tell you." „Yes, m'am." Then it was that Cora began to be shut out. Jessie was confined to her room" (Hughes 4). Even though Cora was a mother and she had experience with her pregnancy, Mrs. Art thought Cora was not wise. When she spoke her mind the Studevants didn't take her seriously. This implies that people who were considered lower class don't have the freedom of speech because they were being shut down by high status people.

"Cora Unashamed" shows how society tends to demean people but despite the circumstances it is up to the characters to maintain their strength. When Hughes introduced Cora he portrayed how Cora was different from the people in Melton. She was a great example because she was a poor black woman with no opportunities. Cora was usually overpowered by Mr. and Mrs. Studevant, because to them she was an animal. Even though, Pa Jenkins and the

Studevants were from different economic status, they also shared common values such as reputation. However in the end of the story, Cora told the truth about how Jessie was the victim of Mrs. Art because she forced Jessie to get an abortion which led to Jessie's death. With anger, Cora spoke her mind, she was not afraid of Mrs. Art anymore, "Cora never came back to work for the Studevants" (Hughes 6). Cora managed to stay true to herself and did not let them dominate her spirit. Cora remained unashamed.

### Works Cited

Hughes, Langston. "Cora Unashamed." Pbs.org. PublicBroadcastingSystem.n.d.

[www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/americancollection/cora/works\\_coraunashamed.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/americancollection/cora/works_coraunashamed.html)

Accessed 24 Jan. 2017.

L

04/12/17

### Sense of Control

Narratives are either spoken or written accounts of connected events—a type of story. People around the world use different narratives to tell their story whether it be a traumatic account or a great memory. Narratives can be either fictional or nonfictional. When it comes to personal narratives, people tend to tell stories of actual events that have occurred to them. After World War II many European Jewish survivors shared their horrifying experience of being sent to concentration camps and being beaten whenever the Nazis desired. Their stories were narratives of WWII. Their narratives will always be remembered for the terrifying event that they went through, the mistreatment, and the loss of their loved ones. War narratives are typically horrifying because of all the innocent lives that are lost during the war. The agony that people faced during the War was so heartbreaking that no one would ever want that to ever occur. The fact that war is so devastating to both sides is a reason why the public needs to be aware, of the situation at hand. If no one is conscious of war, then they will continue to let it happen, and many lives will be lost. Narratives about war should be uncensored and multi-faceted to the degree that the public should be conscious of what is happening around them.

In George Orwell 1984, the slogan for their tyrant government is “War Is Peace” which is a contradiction because war is not peace and George Orwell’s audience knows that. In this sense, their government is trying to say that being in war is a sense of peace when in fact their tactic is a sense of mind control. The people of this government are being manipulated to think that war is a positive thing as opposed to being a negative thing. Therefore, said if our government were to hide war from us and prevent graphic photos of war to be leaked, what makes them different

from the tyrant government that uses the slogan "War Is Peace"? People in that book are accustomed to war; they love it to the point that they even have parades of their army going around their city to show how much the public praises and appreciates what the soldiers do for them when in reality war causes the deaths of either innocent citizens. People have to know what is going on around them. They should not and cannot be manipulated by what is only displayed to them. People have open minds and should be free to think, say, and believe whatever they desire.

People have the right to know what is happening around them whether it is negative or positive, because in one way or another, it does affect them. Graphic images of war should be released for the public's eye because they should be conscious of what their country is involved. Many or some people know that during war things are messy; nothing having to do with war is ever peaceful or beautiful. War is ugly, and it hurts the environment and people in that environment. For example, in Sarah Stillman's "Hiroshima and the Inheritance of Trauma," Shoji, a survivor of the bombing, explains that since the bombing, she felt like she was less than everyone else around her because of the after effects of the bomb. She was considered, hibakusha which meant "explosion affected person" (444). Shoji was just one victim of the bomb she, just one person who is telling her war story when there are plenty more out there. She tells or explains since the bomb hit, her life changed dramatically because of the way people perceived her, the way her body functioned, and the way her mentality was. A simple loud noise will terrify her because of her experience of war, and this one story should bring awareness to the after effects of war. Not one person should be perceived differently because of what they went through. As a matter of fact, Shoji should be viewed as an empowering person because she did not let the after effects of the bomb tear her down. If Shoji's narrative would have been



published at the time that the war was occurring people around the world would help to end this war and would do what they could to help those who were hurt. Referring to the slogan “War is Peace,” if people were unaware of the outcomes of war they will come to believe that the tragedy these people faced were good instead of bad. People will think of the war of Hiroshima as having a good end product when in fact it left various innocent people with internal and physical damage. War stories should be put out to the public so they could have the knowledge of what is going on around them.

If people have a nuanced understanding of the war, they will know what decisions to make. America is a democracy which means that people vote to make things happen. If images of war were never to be posted, then people will blindly make decisions. When talking about war one always thinks about countries or nation going into other country and fighting them but that is not the only war there is. Going deeper looking into a state and looking into their cities the city has gang violence. This gang violence being a type of war to them. Violence in a war is a type of war for these people because they are fighting to get their point out. Back in 2007 my family and I were celebrating my nephew’s birthday. My sister sent me to get her laptop and when I returned she told me to run to the backyard, I listened. As I turned the corner, I heard a loud bang. Two guys who were in a gang had shot at my house, and unfortunately, my sister was shot in the head. Luckily the bullet did not hit anything important, and my sister survived. The narrative provided is not like a typical war narrative, this war narrative is a war within the community within different groups in a community. Not once were the dangers that were happening in my community published. Not once did I ever know that my town was dangerous. If I were to search up on the internet to see all the violent crimes committed in my city, I would not find anything, and that is such a shame. People are blind to their surroundings because the

media fails to announce something that should have been announced. Being a citizen of this country, it was my right to know what was happening around me. If my family knew what was going on around the neighborhood, then maybe they could have started a neighborhood watch, and if worst came to worst, then we could have moved to somewhere else where it is safe. If the public was aware of the condition of the city then they could have taken precautions to make sure to setup a curfew to avoid any unwanted interactions. The act of people being aware will give them the benefit of taking care of their loved ones and making sure they are well protected just like the war forces protects the country mothers, fathers and all adults will protect their love ones.

We have to know what is happening around us because we have to be emotionally stable to deal with the trauma of war. Because of what happened to my sister, I was so afraid to be around my backyard gate. The trauma caused me to be aware of my surroundings and made me become paranoid at any loud bang. Deghett concludes that images of “bloodshed and trauma,” although it may “dull emotional understanding,” are necessary precisely for our emotional understanding (82). Deghett states that “[p]hotos like Jarecke’s not only show that bombs drop on real people; they also make the public feel accountable” (82). The photo Deghett is talking about is of a man who is killed during combat. The image was extremely graphic that many people felt sorrow for the war and wanted to put a stop to it. Those who fight at war have to have some type of strength to deal with killing innocent people. Those who shoot innocent people or those who shoot a bomb because it was an order also have psychological damage to them, and they too will need to be helped. War goes both ways; both sides need to publicize what is going on because when the war is over the public will be the ones to pick up the pieces. People that go to war may come back a different person, may come back missing a body part, or may even

come back in a body bag. These are the outcomes of war and people at times need a reminder that lives are being lost.

M

March 14, 2017

Essay #2 (Third Draft)

### Operation Overload

The Internet is still only an infant child compared to the time line of human activity on Earth, and with technology advancing every day, there are endless possibilities as to what it can do in the future. However, with every positive innovation, there may be a negative consequence lurking in the background. Pulitzer Prize winner Nicholas Carr's "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" explains the many kind of dangers that may occur from people putting their full dependence on the Web, like lowering out capacity of concentration during research. On the opposite side of the spectrum, Associate Professor of German Studies and History at the University of Virginia, Chad Wellmon, counters many points stated by Carr concerning the Internet, pointing out how it is up to the beholder to make the Internet an intellectual tool or a harmful pass time in his article, "Why Google Isn't Making Us Stupid... or Smart". Along with every young child born today who are nearly guaranteed to have access through their phones or computers, the Internet is slowly making its way into everybody's life around the globe. With that being said, it is certainly easy for people to take side on the matter of whether the Web justifies its deceptions by how useful it is to everybody's daily life. The Internet is a young, confused child as those who build it and essentially 'raise it' decide what it can do for the human population and although some may view it as a harmful tool meant to lower our critical thinking skills, it is necessary to remember that it is up to the beholder to navigate the 'Information Superhighway' responsibly in order to retain those skills in the future.

The Internet, in its current state, can be a very scary place. Aside from the countless amounts of articles that can be found concerning strange conspiracies or scary tales, there are mass amounts of web pages and dangerous hyperlinks that exist and can't even viewed on a conventional search engine. The Deep Web is filled with strange sites that exist for dark reasons, like illegal black marketing, and contains an enormous amount of URL's that may potentially invite viruses and hackers into permanent residency in the user's devices. Another point, which may be more appropriate to the typical person, is the danger of depending on technologies that use the Internet. As students look up the answers to questions on their study guides moments before taking a test or while the manly husband tries to do some house repair with Google at their side making sure that they are doing each step correctly, our dependency on prior knowledge is slowly decaying while the dependency on search engines increases. Carr explains what the Internet may do when he says that, "As we are drained of our 'inner repertory of dense cultural inheritance'...we risk turning into 'pancake people'—spread wide and thin as we connect with that vast network of information accessed by the mere touch of a button" (Carr 8). It would be a complete tragedy if, for a time, somebody didn't have access to the Web due to connection problems when they really needed it and had no alternatives due to full dependency. While the people with pessimistic views on the Web explain the dangers of turning into the Borg from Star Trek, others are taking a more optimistic approach.

The World Wide Web is essential to our everyday life, bringing us closer to people we care about and providing useful, along with useless information at the click of a button, and it is safe to assume that the younger generations are guaranteed to love it. As a young adult, I can't live a day without a phone in my hand or a laptop on my lap. Without the Web, we would still be stuck researching a top through a wide array of books containing scattered information from

different point of views rather than searching an article or watching a documentary online that talks about the key points about what we were searching for in the first place. We would need to constantly wait for an opportunity to contact somebody until they were available for a phone call rather than message them immediately through text or email. Yes, there are some dangers of information overload with regards to research, but the same can be expected from reading several books that over the same information. Wellmon backs up this point by explaining that, “In this sense, technology is neither an abstract flood of data nor a simple machine-like appendage subordinate to human intentions, but instead the very manner in which humans engage the world” (Wellmon 69).

The recurring question that Wellmon and Carr try to answer is whether the World Wide Web is making us knowledgeable beings or mindless drones. Is Google taking away our ability to think critically, or is the point of the matter that we simply don't need to think critically anymore? For example, as a college student majoring in Engineering, it would be hard to believe that I don't solve even the simplest of problems without a good amount thorough, critical thinking, and you would be right, but there are a countless amount of times where having to critically think is clearly unnecessary and therefore inefficient to exert effort for due to that fact that I can simply look up the best solution to said problem and follow procedures easily through a step by step process that doesn't require any amount of critical reading at all. There's no need to reinvent the wheel when someone has already done the work for me, right? Wellmon continues this thought by stating, “The digital world will become a “single liquid fabric of interconnected words and ideas,” a form of knowledge without distinctions or differences” (Wellmon 67-68). Having the Internet allows us to skip doing the dirty work and does not make us lose our ability to critically think, it just allows us to save our efforts for when it really

matters. On the other hand, an incredible amount of time can be spent using the Web as a way to distract one's self from problems they wish not to deal with at the time. For example, I watched *YouTube* videos, movies, gameplay, and all sorts of entertainment provided by the wide array of sources that the Internet has to offer rather than spending my time on things that really matter. Carr explains how nifty the Net can be in "diffusing your concentration" explaining that, "When the Net absorbs a medium, that medium is re-created in the Net's image. It injects the medium's content with hyperlinks, blinking ads, and other digital gewgaws, and it surrounds the content with the content of all the other media it has absorbed" (Carr 4-5). The distractions that the Web has to offer are quite a threat to a person's way of critical thinking. But the Internet doesn't simply spam a user with videos of cute puppies and kitties unless the user wished to view them in the first place.

Whether one agrees with Carr or Wellmon, like mentioned earlier, it is still too early to create an opinion on the incredible potential of the internet. Sure, our current version is full of deception and possible dangers that range from threatening viruses to distractions that can last the whole weekend, but with proper education on how to properly handle the Net and when to use it, people will be able to live in perfect harmony with the technologies that surround them. After many more countless years of hard work in perfecting the Internet and making it assessable to anyone and everyone, humans should be on the next evolutionary path to become superior, more efficient beings in the world to come.

## Works Cited

Wellmon, Chad. "Why Google Isn't Making Us Stupid...or Smart." *The Hedgehog Review*. 14.1:

(Spring 2012), 66-80. WEB. 07 Mar. 2017.

Carr, Nicholas. "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" *The Atlantic*. Atlantic Media Company,

July/August 2008, 1-8. PDF. 07 Mar. 2017.



N

16 April 2017

### Expressing Art

Art can be found all over the world from an art museum like LACMA (Los Angeles County Museum of Art) to mother nature herself, with rainbows and the sunset at a beach. Art has become more of a vague word where it covers not only paintings and drawing but as well as music, theatre, and even movies. Art has shifted from pleasure, to addressing social issues of human rights being violated. Art does have an impact on social issues, which could be addressed through books, movies/theatre, and music, in order to share worldwide problems, like the violation of human rights or other pertinent social issues.

Books are one of the strongest ways of stating a social problem in a community or in a society. Books cover a vast majority of genres from nonfiction to fictional stories and even have a story based on a real life event, or even portray a nonfictional story of an event that could happen or has already happened, but with a little twist on the story to capture the attention of a targeted audience. In the article “Is Art a Waste of Time”, by Rhys Southan, he states, “Like Hilton, most of them seemed doubtful that art had much power to alter the world for the better” (Southan 436). I would like to challenge the opinion from Southan’s reading for the reason that even though there is an issue happening around the world, or even in the neighborhood we live, some people do not report or tell people about their sufferings, and writing these experience in books is one of the best way to project the problem that a majority of the people keep quiet. One book that addresses a social problem of sexual assault is *Telling* by Marilyn Reynolds where she shares about a teenage girl, named Cassie, who was working as a babysitter for someone she knew pretty well in her neighborhood. However, after a while of working for that family, the

father of the of the two children starts to sexually assault her and throughout the story Cassie did not know what to do about the event that happen to her. In the eyes of the audience the people would have said, “why not go report it to an adult, or your parents?” Which is true, but a majority of the people who are very unfortunate to get caught in these events do not report it, and nowadays sexual assault is one of the most unreported crimes in the country. A statistic report has shown that, “Only 344 out of every 1,000 sexual assaults are reported to police. That means about 2 out of 3 go unreported.” (RAINN) A book is able to recreate this event in order to spread the view of the author in the situation.

Sexual assault could be very difficult to talk about, even to the ones around you, and the ones you trust. Sexual assault is an issue in the communities because the sexual offenders get away with abusing the victim, and the victim is basically left vulnerable and scared of a tragic event that happens to them. *Telling* challenges the quote from Southan because it is a book that shares a story of the victims point of view of a sexual assault event and the reason why the book is effective is because it shares the experience that many people keep to themselves. *Telling* is able to share a story of sexual assault without a person actually getting hurt and share to the society that staying quiet will not help the victim of a sexual assault but speaking up will make a difference. Books are a form of art, and not all books point out a tragic event that is happening in the world, but books do help people to see or wonder if these social issues are actually happening around the world and could potentially help the people in need.

Movies are another form of art that could display other social issues, such as the issue of immigration; one film that does this is, “Under the Same Moon”. This movie addresses of a current issue because it looks into the lives of the immigrants and how they migrate from their own country to the U.S, leaving everything behind in order to live a better life, in order to

achieve the “American Dream.” Many people suffer from not having papers and picking any job that is being offered to them. Immigrants work almost all day for minimum wage in order to sustain the family they have. The movie “Under the Same Moon” is about a Mexican mother who left from her home country, Mexico, to come to the U.S to achieve the “American Dream,” but in order to achieve this she had to leave, her home, her friends, and the most important person to her at the moment, her son. Many people who cross the border risk their lives on crossing over the border in order live a life they want to live. Once crossing the border it does not mean you “made it” to the other side because there are more obstacles that they have to face. These obstacles consist of learning a new language, getting a job, buying a house, facing a culture barrier, and even worst for the people who bring a family because they have to raise and help their child to get an education. Many people do not make it alive after crossing and other people get injured along the way. One of the places that is populated with immigrant is Los Angeles, where Boyle Heights and East Los Angeles have one of the highest population of Latinos and immigrants living in Los Angeles. For example, in 2006, in Downtown Los Angeles there has been yearly marches for the rights of the immigrants where thousands of people would protest for the change of the U.S immigration policy (Sinco). Even after crossing immigrants do not get treated the same and would have to fight for equality as shown by the people living in Los Angeles by protesting. “Under the Same Moon” was not the only movie that presented migration but it help convey empathy to the world which allows organizations to be made such as the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles which advocates for human and civil rights of the immigrants and refugees living in Los Angeles.

Migration is nothing wrong in the world, the only thing wrong in the world is the borders and walls mankind create to stop the migration. Immigration is a huge social issue because the

immigrants live their life in fear of getting deported and when immigrants do get deported they get exposed to brutal and inhumane condition of confinement. The immigrants not only suffer a poor life back at home but once coming to a new country does not mean your life has changed for the best, because not every person you meet along the road will be greeting you with open hands. In *Necessary Edges: Arts, Empathy, and Education*, one of Yo-Yo Ma's statements also encourages migration because it creates new culture when he states, "the interdependence of globalization is creating more links with other cultures through which empathetic understanding is vital" (Ma 258). The movie "Under the Same Moon" connects to Yo-Yo Ma by promoting empathy for the audience to see the hardship the immigrants go through in order to cross the border and even once crossing the border, they live their life in fear. People might not know how difficult the life of an immigrant is and the only way they could see it or experience it is through art, in this case a movie. Migration allows people to create new cultures from around the world. Migration happens all over the world from people trying to live a better life to butterfly flying from one place to another.

Music is another form of art that allows the author to express themselves on social issues. A song that critiques a social issue is the song that Macklemore's rapped called, "Otherside" where he explains an issue of drugs and how people get addicted to them. Drugs are a huge social issue in the world especially here in the U.S. Lizmarie Maldonado states, "Heroin use in the United States is a growing problem. In 2014, it was found that: 900,000 adults and young adults ages 12 and older used heroin in the past year" (Maldonado). Drugs have one of the highest killing rates in the U.S as shown by statistics, "Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death worldwide, killing approximately 1.4 million people globally in 2008. At least 80% of lung cancer deaths are attributable to smoking." (Tobacco Atlas) Macklemore tries to show that drugs

are not all fun and games by rapping, “I've seen cocaine bring out the demons inside / Cheatin' and lyin' / Friendship cease, no peace in the mind / Stealin' and takin' anything to fix the pieces inside / Broken, hopeless, headed nowhere” (Line 78-83). As well sending a message to the people in power, or the people who get idolized from their fans by rapping, “He just wanted to act like them / He just wanted to rap like him / Us as rappers underestimate the power and the effects that we have on these kids” (51-53). The reason why people look up to the musicians is because they are successful people, and the famous people might not know how much power they have over the people and the children as well when they create their lyrics and how it could affect the lives of people. Drugs could take away the dreams that people once had, the personality that one person has, and even the life that the person has as well. So artist/musicians can use their power to help and express the negative side effects of social issues, in this example Macklemore tries to tackle down the issue of drug addiction and try to convey a message of what it could do to a person's life. Yo-Yo Ma states, “that feeling and emotions as expressed in art and music play a central role in high-level cognitive reasoning.” (Ma 258) Macklemore's song “Otherside” connects with Yo-Yo Ma by the way he raps the song by putting the aggressive emotion and making the audience realize the hardship that a lot of people go through when taking drugs, and the way he describe every bit making the audience understand the way a drug addict might feel. Macklemore strongly suggest that people should be very careful with drugs especially the famous people who have people that look up to them for examples because drugs could potentially ruin a person's life.

Art does show social issues through music, movies and books by exposing what is going wrong the community or what some people go through in their life. People might not understand the deeper meaning behind the lyric, the melody, the words, or even the visuals that the artist

trying to show but that is what Yo-Yo Ma is trying to enforce in his teachings, “critical thinking” by making the audience try and figure out the figurative language that the artist is using, or the way the author portray a picture. Everything that is being produced has a meaning. The little meaning the art has could actually have a bigger meaning in the future or it might have a bigger meaning to other people. Everyone has a different meaning behind a specific art. Social issues can only be solved by uniting the people through art and helping each other out rather than benefitting from others suffer. Art is just there for us, the people, to get the meaning and interpret it as how we want to use it.

## Work Cited

Author Unknown. "The Criminal Justice System: Statistics | RAINN." *The Criminal Justice*

*System: Statistics / RAINN*. RAINN, n.d. Web. 28 Nov. 2016.

Author Unknown. "Smoking's Death Toll." *The Tobacco Atlas*. N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Nov. 2016.

Ma, Yo-Yo. "Necessary Edges: Arts, Empathy, and Education." *Emerging: Contemporary*

*Readings for Writers*. 3rd ed. Ed. Barclay Barrios. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. 257-61  
2016. Print.

Maldonado, Lizmarie. "Heroin Death Rates | How Heroin Kills." *Heroin Death Rates / How*

*Heroin Kills*. Luxury Rehabs, n.d. Web. 28 Nov. 2016.

Sinco, Luis. *Los Angeles Times*. Los Angeles Times, n.d. Web. 29 Nov. 2016.

Southan, Rhys. "Is Art a Waste of Time?" *Emerging: Contemporary Readings for Writers*. 3rd

ed. Ed. Barclay Barrios. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's. 434-440 2016. Print.

O

5 April 2017

### The Male Gaze

Social media interprets Beyoncé as a strong and confident woman—many young girls look up to her as a role model. However, in her music video *Pretty Hurts*, Beyoncé is seen as an insecure woman who tries her best to keep her thin image. The video takes place in a real-world setting, a beauty pageant—where women are judged based on their looks. The pattern exposed in the video shows that women who are confident with their looks or with low-self-esteem are criticized—there is no middle ground when it comes to objectifying women. The only place they can truly be themselves is in an alternate universe.

In today's society, women who are confident with their looks and aren't afraid to show it are criticized for being 'conceited'. For example, in Justin Bieber's music video *Love Yourself*, the main character is portrayed as vain and abrupt. The video is based on a couple who tell a story through their choreography that takes place throughout their whole house. The video starts off with the boyfriend trying to cover himself with the blanket but the girl pulls it away, keeping it all to herself. As the video continues, there is a part where the woman only pays attention to her cell phone. In this section, Justin sings, "Cause if you like the way you look that much, oh baby you should go and love yourself"—meanwhile, her boyfriend dances around her, trying to captivate her attention. Already, we see that the woman doesn't care for her boyfriend and instead, she is more interested in her own reflection from the phone. Towards the end of the



video, there is one scene where it focuses on the woman checking herself out in more than one mirror, while her boyfriend looks at her the whole time. Justin portrays this woman as vain because she is confident with who she is, but brings her down by saying that she is so self-involved with her looks that she forgets the world around her. In the end of the video, the woman is sitting in bed reading a note that says “Love Yourself” left from the boyfriend. She thinks about it for a while and throws her head back into the pillow as if she was punched. This scene shows that the patriarchal men knock down women for being themselves—she lost her man for being too self-assured. The male gaze contributes to how society brings down women for being themselves or lacking self-esteem.

The male gaze, according to Janice Loreck, “invokes the sexual politics of the gaze and suggest a sexualized way of looking that empowers men and objectifies women”. The male gaze is seen in the Justin Bieber video *Love Yourself*, when the man is looking at his girlfriend checking herself out. For about forty seconds, the woman looks into more than four big mirrors where she fixes her hair and checks her make-up. Her boyfriend dances behind her, trying to captivate her attention once again, in which she gives him the cold shoulder. Here, the boyfriend looks at his girlfriend as an object and her feelings “are less important than her being framed by male desire”. In the male gaze, men typically try to control the female by objectifying them, which can also be seen in the Beyoncé music video as well. When the host of the beauty pageant asks Beyoncé a question, he looks at her up and down and looks confused with her response. He

looks at her as an object, and by doing so, he is criticizing her looks. This makes it is hard for women to fit in because they are constantly being judged for their bodies and image, which puts too much pressure on them to look a certain way to fit into society's standards.

In the video *Pretty Hurts*, Beyoncé portrays the critical standards society puts on women which they can't live up to. However, in another Justin Bieber video, *Sorry*, women of every shape and size are accepted for who they are—they aren't judged by any patriarchal men. The video takes place in an alternate universe, where a group of women joyfully dance in a white space. All of the twelve women have different clothing—from bright pink crop tops and blue shorts to polka dot tracksuits and timberlands. According to Annia Licata, who interviewed Parris Goebel, the choreographer for the video, Goebel wanted the style to be Nineties themed. In this music video, we see some women wearing crop top shirts revealing their stomachs or low cut tank tops. If they were to wear this out in public, many people would shame them for wearing “revealing” clothing and this also contributes to how women are brought down by society. In middle school, we are taught that by wearing shorts past the knees can be “distracting” to other people—referring to the boys. But many people today “fail to recognize that, for men and women alike, fashion is a form of self-expression” as stated by Jen Marie in “7 Reasons to Stop Shaming Women.” The male gaze can also be seen here because if women wear something that may be “provocative”, men tend to pull their attention towards them and look them up and down—looking at the women as if they were an object. The constant judging of a woman's

apparel can potentially destroy their positive self-image and their confidence. However, in this bright white parallel universe, the women are free to express themselves by wearing whatever they want and are accepted by one another.



Many Justin Bieber fans anticipate for Justin to come out in the video and show off some of his dance moves along with the group of women, but he fails to make an appearance. What makes this alternate universe a place of acceptance for who you are is the fact that no men are around to judge or objectify anyone. Although living in a parallel universe where women feel liberated to dance and be themselves seems like a wonderful place—we eventually have to return to reality and face the real world once again. Society pressures women to conform to a specific image that it sees as beautiful. Women shouldn't be judged for not being able to live up to society's expectations. Instead, they should be accepted for who they are.

There really is not much to dispute in the analysis I have offered that the only place women are respected is in an alternative universe—away from patriarchal men. The real question

concerning this issue has to do with where are women truly welcomed for who they are? Put simply: if we can't escape to an alternate universe, what real world setting are women able to feel liberated and accepted? Some other videos show the way forward in plus size modeling. In a video entitled "Addition Elle at New York Fashion Week 2016", we see that women of every shape and color are in setting where they have total freedom to be themselves. This video takes place at New York fashion week, where plus size models, such as Jordyn Woods and Ashley Graham, walk the runway. While the plus size models show off their beautiful curves in an all new Addition Elle clothing line, the audience applauds after every girl walks the runway. Some of them try to stay in character, but a few of the models can't resist but to smile. This real-world setting allows women who are targeted in social media as "ugly" to feel accepted in an environment that encourages women to embrace who they are. In an interview with Addition Elle about her clothing line, her goal is to "deliver trendy, flattering and fashionable clothing for plus size women...to feel their best in every aspect of life". This video shows that there can be place where confident women are not brought down by patriarchal men.

To conclude, the patterns exposed in the music video *Pretty Hurts* and *Love Yourself* reveal how women are being constantly brought down by patriarchal men and society. Women who are confident with their looks or with low-self-esteem are criticized—there is no middle ground when it comes to objectifying women. The only place they can be themselves is in an

alternative universe that is exposed in Justin Bieber's *Sorry* music video. Women should embrace their confidence and be comfortable in the skin they're in, despite what patriarchal men say.

P

### Does Your Privacy Have a Price?

Every day or what seems like every day I tend to always fall into a binge of watching vlogs on YouTube by a variety of YouTubers. Every time they uploaded these videos more, and more of their lives was shown to their viewers and different things such as people coming up to their houses randomly to meet them and people commenting on their personal lives. However, I also often find videos of these vloggers complaining about their privacy being disturbed and being exhausted of people commenting on everything they do or just what they decide to share. On my social media, when I choose to let people know about something that is going on in my life that is very personal, and the comments aren't the nicest, it ends up affecting my future post, but these vloggers continue to do so because they will receive a check in return. Although some people are willing to give their privacy a price, this allows society to gain control over their lives.

I am a hardcore fan of all the Keeping Up with Kardashian shows and have come to learn a lot about every person that is a part of that family. In this television, a lot of what goes on in these celebrity's lives revealed to millions of individuals. Although all of their privacy is gone, they are very willing to continue doing the show because it allows them to get money back in return for taking away their privacy. However, on the show, it is clear that their fame and the fact that they have a million on them at all times does get to them. It is also very apparent that society plays a huge role sometimes on what they

decide to do based on the show. For example, Kendall Jenner the second youngest of the clan wanted to start advocating for gun control laws and be a part of different organizations. In one of the episode, you can see that her family was trying to warn her that if she does decide to take part in any of these organizations that she will receive significant backlash because she is choosing to advocate for stricter gun laws.

Throughout the episode, she ends up talking about not being able to do things that will make her happy because she knows that those millions of eyes that are she has on her will end up discouraging her from doing anything. Which leads me to say that many people give their privacy a price but unfortunately ends of having a hard timing doing things that they want to do because the way people react ends up affect whether or not they should keep on doing something.

In the article “How Corporations Learn Your Secrets,” by Charles Duhigg, we find out how companies find their way to control our lives. In the article, it is explaining how companies such as Target can get you to go back to their stores depending on your given situation. “We knew that if we could identify them in their second trimester, there’s a good chance we could capture them for years,” Pole told me. “As soon as we get them buying diapers from us, they’re going to start buying else.” Essentially what they do is when a person starts searching for diapers and other baby related items, Target is tracking down the searches. After taking a look at what you are searching for they try throwing as many ads out there so that they can capture your attention to their site. This way Target is able to become their go-to place for other things along with their baby items. Now with this article, it clears what can happen when such things can be track can lead to you

regularly targeted of many deals on the internet for an individual store based on all these different searches you make.

I once had a friend who shared anything and everything that ever happened in her life. Every time we would hang out she would always tell me things that I could have been better off not knowing but that's how she was she was an open book and didn't worry about who heard her or her she would until one day. Sadly, someone decides to put all her business out there for everyone to know what she was doing on a false social media account. She did not show up to school that day and did not answer any single one of our text from anybody that day until the following day. She texted us saying that she was not going to school the rest of the week because she felt embarrassed about what the post had said about her and did not want to deal with everyone looking at her differently and bringing it up to her again. We all decided to tell her that it is okay and that soon people won't remember anything and plus it was senior year, so we weren't going to deal with anyone again. However, we also ended up telling her that it is best to keep things to herself from now on because not everyone will be okay with knowing all these things about her and not using them against her.

As I was saying earlier, people who consider on vlogging on YouTube do tell a lot about their lives. Although many of them do try to hide their address and try not to show too much of their house, people still manage to access that information and do either shocking things on their property or just decide to wait for their until they get out so they can say hey or take a picture with them. There is this lovely family that I do watch and one day someone that watched their videos decide to stand outside their



driveway and wait until one of them came out. Of course, the family did not agree and refused to get out because they did not feel comfortable meeting people who came to their house because it was an invasion of their privacy. Once they decide to decline going outside to meet this person, later on, they were able to see that the individual decided to key the mom's car. They, later on, decide to address this issue to their subscribers and told them that they feel a certain way now that their jobs are letting in strangers into their lives. They also acknowledge the fact that they do it because they love it and it is a very blessing job. They understand now they have no way of controlling a lot of aspects of their lives because slowly and gradually they are becoming a public figure and more people are starting to notice them and want to meet them.

Many times it is not always obvious to people what can happen when they decide to reveal a lot of their daily life. When we do decide to share so much, it is later starting to become more apparent how much other people start to affect the things you do because you know that they will find out and will have a certain opinion. People are very willing now in days because many times that peek into their lives is followed up by a huge paycheck is especially for reality stars and youtubers. Giving up your privacy comes with a price and sometimes it is very clear that our privacy is better off hidden and not out them for the world to freely try to tell you a million things about everything you try to do.

Work Cited Page

Duhigg, Charles. "How Companies Learn Your Secrets." The New York Times. The New York Times, 18 Feb. 2012. Web. 17 Apr. 2017.

Q

22 January 2017

### Why America Voted for Donald Trump

After Trump got elected as the president of the United States, there are many reasons why people voted for him. The people did not want immigrants in the United States because after seeing a lot of them taking over their jobs. People started wanting Trump to limit the immigrants coming in the United States, where they wanted more whites to get their jobs back rather than the immigrants. When Trump announced a lot of racist ideas like Muslim bans, building a wall across Mexico's border, and other things he said in his rallies made some of his supporters more violent towards other races. A lot of people are not even sure how Donald Trump got voted as the president of the United States.

When comparing to the articles, the reason how Trump got voted as president of the United States is because they believed he could bring back America great again. His one idea that gave people a lot of attention towards whites were giving back their jobs back from the immigrants. While it is true that Leonard's argument about conservatives thinking that the liberal's worldview of change takes away "good jobs" from whites, it does not necessarily follow that liberal thinking is bad towards society. In Leonard's article, he talks about why rural America voted for Trump with a small story talking about whether he is conservative or liberal. He explains about how liberals are wanting change in the world and where conservatives want no change. A lot of rural Americans see college as a must for their children, so there might have been a reason behind Trump getting a lot of electoral votes from them. Where liberals see that as

something that is weird. America is filled with Republicans where they make Democrats seen as an enemy to the public.

In Rozsa's article, she showed tweets describing Trump supporters. Her argument is partially true. From looking at the news where Trump rallies started, there were some Trump supporters being racist against a black person. There are three misunderstandings, however. These racist Trump supporters have "racial or homophobic slur" wherever you walk. Secondly, why would illegal immigrants bring crime to the country? Thirdly, Trump is racist, but his supporters do not believe that. In some rallies, he says racist things to other races a lot. Some of the tweets from Jared Yates Sexton are the description of Trump supporters. One of his tweets says, "Hope the illegals get their fun in because they got three hours before they're shipped back to Mejjico". This explains how the Trump supporters think about other races. There were a few Trump supporters attacking other races, but now the number of them has risen after the influence from their actions.

The story about Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis explains how J.D Vance's life. He started out as a hillbilly where he was the smartest kid in his school. Being smart in school had some difficulties, like getting bullied by other students. Vance dreamed of going to college, so that he could support his family. The place where he lives is poor and a lot of people are drug addicts because they can't afford things for food, house, and themselves. His argument about the life he's going through does seem bad. There are two things about his life as a conservative which is voting for Trump, however. Vance explains the Jackson people are "the nicest people in the world." But, some of them might do bad things to cope with the stress in their poor lives. Lastly, he wants to get out of Jackson because there are a lot of problems in that city. Which makes him a conservative to go to a college to help his people.

On the one hand, I agree with Mike Pence that in the march there should be men to chaperone their daughters for protesting. But, on the other hand, I still insist that women should protest without the men chaperoning for only older adults which would be 21 and up. When Pence said, "I can't tell you how let down I feel by the heads of these households who did not simply give their wives and daughters a firm, decisive 'no' when they asked to participate in today's demonstration," his idea about this explains that he does not support women's rights. Pence wants the men to do everything for women, since he thinks they can't do those things. In the article, Pence was in "frustration" because of their husbands granting them permission to travel without a male chaperone.

If you are either a liberal or a conservative, your brain would could not tell which one you are. In Mooney's article, it is said that only hard core liberals or conservatives are said to be true in testing this by using an x-ray. While it is true that liberals have increased grey matter and conservatives have larger amygdala, it does not necessarily follow that this would be true for everyone. The liberals are said to be people who wants change and the conservatives as those who do not want any change to occur. By learning about this article, these two different beliefs can increase their performance on which things they are good at based on their brain structure.

Lackoff's article tends to talk about how the strict father is mostly related to conservative ideas and values. His argument about comparing to the strict father does seem right. There are three things how they are similar. First, he talks about morality which is to be obedient to the authority. Secondly, economics for competing for scarce resources which implies to discipline. Lastly, the government give people of what they have not earned yet. There is more stuff about the strict father comparing it to the conservative ideas. These things are the necessity for the

conservative to be successful in life which are born to be good. Lackoff showed us how Trump voters think about these methods from strict father.

The words that we should all know are 함께 (hamkke), 견디다 (gyeondida), and 인종 차별 주의자 (injong chabyeol juuija). Hamkke means to be together because we all need to stick together, so that no one faces the problem alone from Trump's reign of terror. This second word is called endure, the reason why I chose this is because people must keep Trump as president for the next four years. Lastly, the word injong chabyeol juuija is called racist in which Trump and his supporters are racist to other races. These Korean words are a must know for Trump as president for the next four years.

Most of Trump supporters rooted for him because everyone wanted mostly jobs which were taken from immigrants. Trump promised people that he would make America great again and maybe his business side had interested some people. This might be the case why Trump got voted as the president of the United States.

## References

Leonard, Robert. "Why Rural America Voted for Trump." The New York Times. The New York Times, 05 Jan. 2017. Web. 22 Feb. 2017.

Matthew Rozsa / Salon. "Scenes From Deplorable America: Some Trump Supporters Are Putting Their Bigotry on Full Display." Alternet. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Feb. 2017.

"Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis." Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Feb. 2017.

"Mike Pence Disappointed In The 200,000 Husbands And Fathers Who Permitted Women To Attend March." The Onion - America's Finest News Source. N.p., 21 Jan. 2017. Web. 22 Feb. 2017.

"Your Brain on Politics: The Cognitive Neuroscience of Liberals and Conservatives." The Intersection. N.p., 07 Sept. 2011. Web. 22 Feb. 2017.

Lakoff, George. "The Strict Father Is at the Core of Conservative Ideology and Values." Truthout. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Feb. 2017.



R

April 3rd, 2017

### Why are emotional videos so popular?

So many things had occurred in the year of 2016 that people will never forget such as the presidential election, Black Lives Matter movement, deaths of many well-known celebrities, etc. But the one thing that has occurred last year that I will never forget is many people had come out of "the closet" in my personal life and celebrities confessed they were either gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, asexual, or transgender. In the year 2016, many celebrities had come out, such as Bruce Jenner now known as Caitlyn Jenner, Colton Haynes, Bella Thorne, Kristen Stewart, and so much more. Even my best friend of two years just had recently confessed to me that she is pansexual last year. She knew since the beginning of high school but was afraid to admit it because she did not want to be bullied and judged. If it weren't for the coming out videos on YouTube, she would not have had the guts to come out to anyone. Often emotional expressions of coming out place LGBT issues in the public eye while creating a personal connection between creators, their audience, and the wider LGBT community. For those sharing their stories, YouTube offers a space where they can be themselves and connect with others, to both seek and provide support, regardless of where they are. Emotional videos gain so many views but can help change people's lives.



Coming out can feel like an isolating and the most traumatizing experience — but YouTube users are proving it doesn't have to be. In the article “YouTube Trends Explainer: Coming out on YouTube,” Carly Lanning and Christine Huang states there are more than 36,000 videos related to the subject on the platform today, the sum of which have received more than 300m views. Last year alone, we saw ~9,600 coming out stories shared on YouTube - a 20% increase from the year before. Two gay teen brothers became a viral sensation after an emotional video of themselves coming out to their father. The brothers, who are originally from Ohio but now live in Los Angeles, said they came out to each other when they were both 16 years old. The brothers were inspired by other coming out videos that have made the blogosphere rounds. Austin said that the now-famous telephone call was “the scariest moment” of his young life. On January 14th, 2015, fraternal twins Austin and Aaron Rhodes known as the Rhodes Bros on YouTube made a video coming out to their dad which is the most viewed coming out video on YouTube. This video inspires so many emotions, as the boys initially struggle to get the words out. When they finally do, their father offers the most perfect response to his sons: “It’s the way things are, you know? You’re grown people. You grew up in a lot different generation than me. I just don’t really know what to say — you know I love you both and that’ll never change.” The video had made over 4 million views in the first 24 hours, 23,866,374 views in total, and they were also invited to the Ellen show shortly after. “Twins Come Out to Dad” video has been a significant breaking point for YouTube as a platform for connecting with the LGBT community.



Many major YouTube creators such as Hannah Hart, Tyler Oakley, Lucas Cruikshank, Troye Sivan, Gigi Gorgeous, Joey Graceffa, Shane Dawson and Ingrid Nilsen have shared their own coming out stories on their channels in hopes of creating honest, open relationships with their fans and to help further a message of unconditional love, acceptance, and support. Tom Daley is best known for winning a bronze diving medal in the 2012 London Olympics. He came out on YouTube because of he, "wanted to put an end to the rumors and speculation," Daley explains. The platform gave him complete control of his story(so far the video has received 12.4 million views). Another major Youtube creator Connor Franta, who joined YouTube in April 2010 with 5.6 million followers creating content ranging from lifestyle video blogs to comedy skits to inspirational short films, made a coming out video. Franta made a video in 2011 saying he is not gay but chose to come out on YouTube in December 2014 which has received 11.4 million views. "I'm making this video for anyone who needs it," Franta explains of his decision to come out on YouTube. "It may not seem like it right now, but you are going to be

fine." Finding courage and support was one of the most important points in Franta sharing his story.

People who found courage and support and decide to reveal to the world their sexuality will come upon positive reactions and comments. After *Juno* star Ellen Page came out as gay, there were many celebrities tweeting support such as Kate Mara and Mia Farrow. Videos are not the only way people come out to others. There are some who came out as gay using Instagram such as *Teen Wolf* actor Charlie Carver come out as gay in a series of Instagram posts. Over time, this abstract 'knowing' grew and articulated itself through a painful gestation marked by feelings of despair and alienation, ending in a climax of saying three words out loud: 'I am gay'", Carver told fans. Meanwhile, they would get hateful comments as well.

Not everyone is going to accept your sexuality. There is a video who secretly recorded which shows how one family responded when their young son told them he is gay which has over 8.8 million views. The video starts with them choosing their religion over him, disowning him, kicking him out of their home, then swearing, physical assault, and emotional assault. The mother said, "God created nobody that way, and you have chosen to choose." In the article "Secretly-Recorded Coming Out Video That Is Almost Every LGBT Child's Nightmare Goes Viral," Badash states 40 percent of homeless runaways are LGBT kids and 1.6 and 2.8 million youths run away each year.

While there are some, who are not accepting of those who came out. There are other who use emotional videos as a joke to make money. On Quora, an aspiring YouTuber states, "considering the average CPM of \$1.5; you will get \$7.5 for 5000 views. So if you make some 100 videos and get 5k views each, you will earn around \$700 to \$1000. It can help me more if

you partners with YouTube's MCN, sell stuff, ask for a donation, etc. But for an educational channel, these won't work". "A guy known on the internet as MysticGotJokes tried to trick his girlfriend into thinking that he was gay as a prank, but it went wrong, and she ended up ripping his sexuality apart. His girlfriend said, "It all makes sense!. Your eyebrows are nicer than mine: it takes longer for you to get ready...". The video Mystic published has over 5.2 million views. Another parody prank video is of a guy named Joe from Dei and Joe on YouTube who planned on pulling a prank on his girlfriend, but it went wrong when she did not believe him, which has 376,741 views. The guy made a joke by actually coming out a closet. Another video is the coming out prank with 316,196 views someone did this guy who is known as MatthewZ on YouTube tried to prank his brother saying he is gay, but it backfired when his brother sees the camera and pretends to think he is gay. It is hard for people to come out to the world as gay but when people make videos pretending to be gay to trick people is wrong. These videos do not change anybody's lives for the better -- maybe for the worse. But YouTube can still be helpful platform for LGBT community.



It takes knowing LGBT people, talking with them, loving them, for society as a whole to understand and embrace them. Based on my personal experience, having a best friend who is pansexual and close friends who are gay, lesbians, and bisexuals make me understand how hard it must be for them. Coming out is important and is a very nerve-wracking moment in any LGBT person's life. In today's society, many YouTube creators have taken over the Internet whose motive is to help make it easier for other young people struggling with their sexual or gender identities while others use it as "click bait" to get views to make money which is wrong.

There is not much to dispute in the analysis I have offered of emotional videos. The real question concerning these issues has to do with do emotional videos get views only if they are negative, not positive? Put simply: if someone were to post a video on the internet, are they only doing it for entertainment purposes? Further, why do people post things online that are very personal to them? To answer this question, we need to think of videos like engagement videos and wedding videos. The wedding video "JK Wedding Entrance Dance" which has 94 million views on YouTube and the engagement video "Aspyn and Parker: The Engagement" which has 3.4 million views on YouTube. I believe the more positive emotional videos on YouTube get more views than the negative emotional videos. The reason why people post very personal videos online because they want to reflect on the videos in future for themselves and their families as well.



## Work Cited

- Badash, David. "Secretly-Recorded Coming Out Video That Is Almost Every LGBT Child's Nightmare Goes Viral." *The New Civil Rights Movement*. N.p., 28 Aug. 2014. Web. 13Mar.2017.
- MysticGotJokes. "Coming out to Girlfriend Prank Gone Wrong!!!" *YouTube*. YouTube, 03 Mar. 2016. Web.13Mar.2017.
- "Coming out to Girlfriend Prank Gone Wrong!!!" *YouTube*. Ed. Dei and Joe. YouTube, 14 Jan. 2017. Web. 13 Mar. 2017.
- Franta, Connor. "Coming Out." *YouTube*. YouTube, 08 Dec. 2014. Web. 13 Mar. 2017.
- Kircher, Madison Malone. "The top 10 most viewed YouTube coming-out videos of all time will bring you to tears." *Business Insider*. Business Insider, 01 July 2015. Web. 13 Mar. 2017.
- Lanning, Carly, and Christine Huang. "YouTube Trends Explainer: Coming Out on YouTube." *YouTube Trends*. N.p., 19 Feb. 2015. Web. 13 Mar. 2017.
- Rhodes, Austin, and Aaron Rhodes. "Twins Come Out To Dad." *YouTube*. YouTube, 14 Jan. 2015. Web. 13 Mar. 2017.
- Ryan, Regina. "How not to react when your child tells you that he's gay." YouTube. YouTube, 27 Aug.2014.Web.13Mar.2017.
- "Telling my brother I'm Gay- Prank!! (Backfired)." *YouTube*. Ed. Matthew Z. YouTube, 04 Sept. 2016. Web. 13 Mar. 2017.

<https://www.quora.com/How-much-money-can-I-make-from-a-YouTube-video-with-5-000-view>

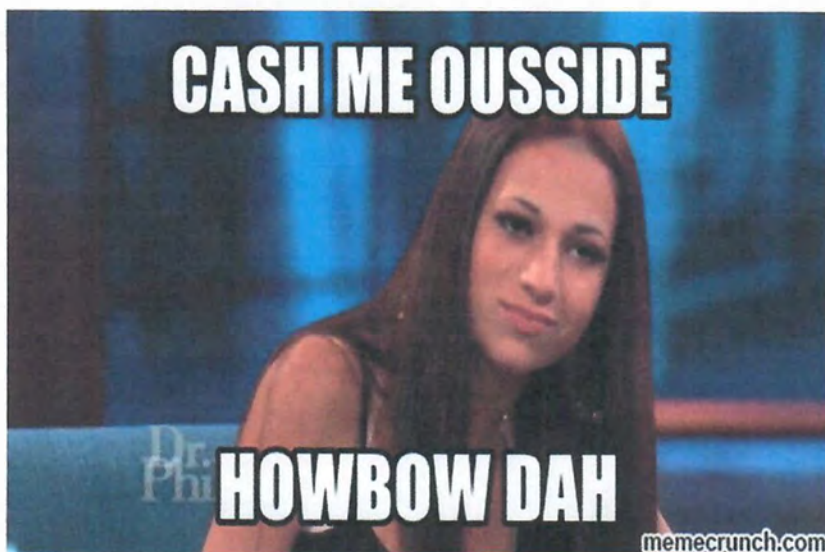
s

S

3/11/17

## Bad Parenting V. Good Parenting

Social media has shown us two sides or kinds of parenting. On Facebook I found a video called, “Good Parenting V. Bad Parenting”. This video shows us a “bad parenting” sign and a video clip of the Dr. Phil show where we see a desperate mother seeking for Dr. Phil’s help with her rebellious, out of control 13-year-old daughter. Both the mother and daughter are Caucasian. I felt the need to point this out because it is an essential part of the video in order for a better understanding of why it is funny. As I was saying, we see a Caucasian mother and daughter at the Dr. Phil show, and right away we can see that this is not your typical 13-year-old. She is very ill-mannered and tries to intimidate anyone who even just tries to talk to her including her own mother. She shows aggressive body language towards the studio audience, Dr. Phil and her mother. The girl faces the audience and says, “cash me outside howbow dah”. After she says



that Dr. Phil looks clueless and asks her what that means, to which her mother answers Dr. Phil’s question by saying that she’s trying to pick a fight. After answering Dr. Phil’s question her daughter gets up and again



displays violent body language towards them, and Dr. Phil gives an annoyed expression as he orders her to sit down. Then we see a sign that says, “Good Parenting” and there we see a Mexican man speaking in Spanish bragging to two men sitting in front of his desk of how his son must respect otherwise he will smack him. As his son sits next to him behind a desk, his son chuckles and looks at his father and says he wouldn't hit him, and he says the same thing the girl from the Dr. Phil clip said, “cash me outside howbow dah”, and his father immediately gets up and slaps him in the face and demands that he must respect him because he is his father, kicks him out of the room, and the video ends there. The “Good Parenting” Part of the video was only an act; it was not real. In another video, I found on Instagram we see young Caucasian little girl throwing a naked Barbie doll and saying “give me your fucking money”. Of course, no one



would expect the little girl to ever behave or act like that. Many would expect that her parents would discipline her but instead she was recorded and posted on social media.

Many people find the “Bad Parenting V.

Good Parenting” video clip very humorous, especially Hispanic people because most of us can relate to that video. I personally have had my mother smack me in the face once or twice because I disrespected her as many other Hispanic children might have received the same kind of discipline from their parents for talking back to them or simply disrespecting them. And those

who watch shows like the Dr. Phil show, the Maury show, or, the Steve Wilkos Show, may not be surprised to see another Caucasian family there who are seeking help to control their children. Many people may also find the video clip funny because of how the 13-year old girl expresses herself and how she says “catch me outside how about that” with a funny accent. As for the other video, many people might find it humorous because you don't usually see a little girl throwing a doll across the room and cursing. Back when I was a little girl I was afraid to even curse because I knew that I would get in trouble for cursing, and nowadays I hear and see little kids cursing freely, and frequently. And when I witness that I just think about what my parents would do to me if they ever heard those words coming out of my mouth, and of course it would probably be a smack in the face or in the butt. Now people think it's funny to hear a child curse or show disrespect on social media. This has shown us how much our generation of children are changing. Of course, many of us have noticed some change of behavior due to technology. Some of us are shocked when we see a five-year-old with a smartphone or a tablet and we think back to our childhood when we didn't get to have that luxury. All we had was our toys and playing outside with our neighbors or friends. Back when I was a child the discipline was a lot harsher than what it is now. If you spank your child it is no longer seen as discipline. It is seen as child abuse. That has changed how our generation of children behave today.

It seems that the discipline that children receive nowadays is not enough for them to behave. Our generation of children now seem to be a little more rebellious than before. Hearing children curse or disrespect their parents is starting to become funny or a normal thing that is being posted constantly on social media as a meme. It is rare that we see a Hispanic child cursing or disrespecting their parents on social media, yet we see a lot of Caucasian children cursing and disrespecting their parents on social media for amusement and entertainment. That may lead a lot

of people to think that Caucasian parents don't discipline their children, which leads me to think that discipline varies in different kinds of race, but our generation and society now has changed on child discipline because spanking is seen as child abuse. Now don't get me wrong here, I do not agree with a parent excessively spanking their child as a form of discipline, but it's not bad to give a mild spank in the butt or even a nonphysical form of discipline when we know that our child has misbehaved. There really is not much to dispute in the analysis I have offered of the parental discipline. The real question concerning these issues has to do with the lack of parental discipline. Put simply: What does the future hold for children who lack discipline? What will the future generation of children be like if they are not properly disciplined, but rewarded by getting positive recognition by being posted on social media as entertainment? To answer this question, we can look at another video: called "Kids today smh". (smh: Shaking, My, Head). I found this video on Instagram. It is an 8 second video of a little kid, maybe about 5 years old reacting to a realistic baby doll who moves and makes noise. His reaction was to was to say, "what the fuck!". He didn't even think twice about what he was going to say or how his parents would react. It was like his first instinct. When I was his age I definitely thought twice about cursing in front of my parents because I knew I would get punished. It seemed to be regular behavior in his household.

As we see our new generation of children they seem to lack the sense of discipline as shown on with the "Bad Parenting V. Good Parenting" video, and the other video where the little girl throws her naked doll across the room and curses as shown on social media (Facebook, and Instagram, etc.). Some may say it's wrong to spank their children as a form of discipline. However now that the new generation lack that form of discipline they seem to be getting worse. I use my little sister as an example. My mother does not discipline her the way she disciplined me when I was her age. Her behavior is a lot worse than mine was when I was her age. I was



afraid to talk back to my mother when I was her age because I knew my mother would discipline mean by giving me a spanking, and now, that form of discipline is considered bad, and my mom no longer disciplines her the way she disciplined me when I was her age and the result of that is my sister constantly talking back and disrespecting my mother, which shocks me. It shocks most of us to hear a 10-year-old cussing because when we were their age we knew we would be punished for it, now rather than getting punished it is on social media is using it as means of entertainment. Some may argue that discipline can lead to abuse. For example, in Sweden, it is illegal to spank children. One of the main reasons for making spanking children illegal is because there were cases where parents excessively spanked their children which just lead to abuse. In an CNN article called, "In Sweden, a generation of kids who've never been spanked", there was a case where there was a young teen named Hillary Adams IS able to capture video evidence of physical abuse by the hands of her parents. Her father was the main parent inflicting the abuse, and made her mother go along with what he called "discipline". She explains to the CNN reporter how her father's discipline slowly started escalating to abuse over time. It says in the article, "No countries in North America ban physical punishment by parents, but there's a perennial debate about the line between discipline and abuse, and who's allowed to administer it. It flared again last week after millions watched a seven-minute YouTube video from 2004 that showed a Texas judge cursing at his teen daughter and beating her with a belt". It is a very difficult video to watch for many parents. This video shows the teen girl sitting on her bed looking frightened because she knows what her father and mother are going to do to her, and sure enough her father violently enters the room yelling at the top of his lungs. He then continues to violently smack her and yell at her. At one point, he steps out of the room to grab his belt to continue the gruesome violence he considers "discipline". This is an example of why parents

may have eased up on disciplining their children. Some parents can simply cross the boundary between discipline, and abuse. If I were a parent myself I would make sure to draw a line between discipline and abuse after being aware of that video that was posted on 2004.

I conclude that discipline does not vary in race because of what the “Bad Parenting V. Good Parenting” video shows us, but it does vary in the type of parents that we have now that have let themselves be influenced by what society and social media think about discipline. And so far, social media has shown us that Caucasian parents have been influenced the most because of the lack of discipline we see on social media where a child is recorded cursing and misbehaving for entertainment of others. There are some Hispanics that no longer discipline their children by giving them a spank and many of us see the lack of discipline when we are out and see a small child cursing or disrespecting their parent in public. It is important for the sake of our future generation of children that they are disciplined properly, but not excessively.

## Works Cited

CNN News article

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/11/09/world/sweden-punishment-ban/>

YouTube bad parenting v. good parenting video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ne0TgbqVAOc>

YouTube give me your fucking money video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GvOEaY8wgs>