

## Memorandum: Final Draft

**Date:** 16 September 2024

**To:** Dr. Ja'La Wourman

**From:** Myla S. Roundy

**Subject:** Remix of Final Theory Paper

Based on a previous essay on the relationship between the spiral of silence theory and Black queerness, I will create an interactive website that acts as a safe space for all. The main purpose of this remix is to make a scholarly topic more accessible and digestible for the standard person. It will be intended for three main audiences: Black queer individuals, those who are still learning to accept Black queerness and allies who strive to continuously educate themselves. This remix will allow each person to customize their experience. Some individuals just want to be validated, others are curious, and some will be forced to participate. Regardless of why someone is interacting with my website, I want them to experience a variety of multimedia elements, such as videos, pictures, audio, art pieces, and more. This is a digital experience, but it deals with tangible feelings and I want this remix to be something that people carry with them for the rest of their lives.

The first pathway of my website is for other queer Black people. It will be all about validating experiences and feelings from the understanding of the spiral of silence theory. More often than not, people just need to put a name to their experiences to prove to themselves that they are not crazy. Having a name and finding a community means everything; this is why within this pathway, I would love to incorporate personal statements of some sort. This could include a video of a monologue, a poem, or even a self-reflective art piece. I want this section to be like a

reflection or a mirror. We say time and time again that representation is important and that is exactly why this part is included. Queer Black people spend too much time trying to educate others and make them feel comfortable, so I am reversing the roles and giving Black queer people all the space they need to feel comfortable on their own terms.

The next pathway would be for those who the spiral of silence essentially criticizes—the ones that force a person into the spiral of silence. In the context of Black queerness, this is probably going to consist of a person's parents, aunts & uncles, and if they are really lucky, then maybe even their grandparents. I imagine this pathway will be a lot less abrasive than the other two because the audience will most likely consist of those who are still learning and probably still skeptical and stuck in their own ways. For multimedia elements, I think cartoons/comics would be nice, as well as some video clips with personal accounts/statements from both family members and queer individuals. Another idea is to possibly include some scenarios where a person can choose a response to a prompt, and then it gives some examples of how that Black queer individual felt about that response. I know this section will have to be the least radical and the most forgiving as it is important to remember that everyone starts somewhere and in conversations like these, one must be patient and meet a person where they are.

My last pathway is for allies and because of how diverse this audience can be, it will probably pull some of the same multimedia elements from the other two pathways for a more well-rounded experience. Because my remix will center the experience of Black queer individuals and not queer individuals altogether, an ally could be either a straight person or another queer person, both white and non-white. I think this section will have a heavier emphasis on education rather than the ideas of reflection and comfortability/acceptance like in the other two. Given this, it will probably include clips from articles that talk about both the spiral of

silence and Black queerness because education on these topics can be helpful in a multitude of areas throughout life.

This remix is for the people. Almost everyone will fit into one of these three core audiences and will walk away with something valuable. Some of the topics and words shared will be hard to digest and sit with, but I hope with the inclusion of multimedia elements that this website will be accessible to many. Although the ability to do so is important, reading papers and articles is not for everyone. A lot of people are visual and auditory learners and my website will help cater to that. I originally wrote my essay on Black queerness because the only ones that talk about the feelings of alienation and the silencing that come from growing up queer in a Black household are the Black queer people who grew up in those households. The spiral of silence helps put a name to what queer Black people go through, and my remix website will aid in the fight to dismantle stigmas and push people to become comfortable with the uncomfortable.

Sincerely,

Myla S. Roundy