

Date: 02 December 2024

To: Dr. Ja'La Wourman

From: Myla S. Roundy

Subject: Final Justification

Going into this remix experience, I just wanted to create something that was accessible to everyone; regardless of where they stand in relation to Black queerness. The original essay that I wrote was meant for academic communication professionals, and although I am proud of what I produced almost exactly a year ago, I am so proud that I was able to turn that into something that is more tangible and relatable for the everyday audience.

I started this project by writing down any and all ideas. I wanted to find multimedia elements that centered Black queer experiences whether that be through videos, audio, visual art, spoken word, or even just quotes. This proved to be a lot harder than I imagined because initially when I started my research process, I was trying too hard to find materials that also alluded directly to the spiral of silence theory, the theory that my original essay was based on. Quickly I realized that I would need to pivot by not giving both topics equal “airtime,” and as I reflect on that now, I realize that if I had gone in that original direction then I would have silenced the voices of Black queer people, a minority, and the whole premise of the theory is that minorities are silenced in the presence of the majority.

Although Black queerness is in the eyesight of mainstream media, it still is not respected universally in society and is not acknowledged in the same way that white queerness is. There were definitely some challenges in finding artifacts that fit my vision, but I am in awe of what I was able to create with a lack of access to resources. I hope in the future that my project, A

Navigation of Black Queerness, may even be able to be a source of information or an artifact for someone else's project.

From the beginning to end I stayed true to how I wanted to orientate the pathways. The Black queer pathway is validating; the new learner pathway is nurturing; and the ally pathway is informative. Everyone has something to take and learn from the entirety of this project, but if I only had one line to share it would come from Carl, in the video “What It’s Like to Grow Up Gay And Black.” He says, “There was a moment when I was 15, I was like, ‘Wait, am I gay?’ And my heart sunk because I knew what that meant” (BuzzFeedVideo). To me, that right there tells everyone anything they need to know about being Black and queer in today’s society.

Sincerely,

Myla S. Roundy

Works Cited

BuzzFeedVideo. (2017, June 24). *What It's Like To Grow Up Gay And Black* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2zxYx7sxJI>.