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### The Story of a Woman.

I decided to do the “Create a piece of Art or Expression” option for the second project. I considered some of the theories and concepts that we've covered in class and decided that I want to include attribution theory, narrative paradigm, and rhetoric of dissent in my presentation. My monologue was set to explore my experiences as a woman in the 21st century, who has experienced sexual assault and rape, discrimination in healthcare as a woman, disrespect as a woman with liberal opinions, blatantly yelled at in public by men, and more - a variety of experiences that so many women in the United States have been forced to revel in. My goal under this monologue is to frame the truth behind a woman's thoughts and perceptions, my thoughts and perspectives being so different from others.

To preface, I'm aware that I have an obligation to recognize that my experience isn't the same as other women's due to race, age, culture and religion, these experiences that I've had are either more tame or worse considering those differences. I recognize that living in the city that we do, Indianapolis is a more liberal city but there are still people who don't understand the life of a woman and the life of what it feels like to be a young woman today.

I wanted to weave a narrative that navigates trust, identity, and resilience. By drawing on the narrative paradigm, rhetoric of dissent, and attribution theory, I aimed to illuminate not just my inner world but also the fractured lens through which others perceive me. These frameworks

not only shaped how I presented my story but also deepened my understanding of the complex dynamics between self and society.

I planned to turn off the lights, turn on flashlights, to be able to set the scene of it being a story, which I plan to break off from being a story at the end. I want to dramatize this as much as possible because it is important for people to recognize that dramatic does not have to be bad but dramatic does have to be telling.

Like I said I wanted it to start off like a story, connecting to that narrative paradigm, where everything you share and the life that you live is a story. I want the scene to be not only intimate but express a universal experience for women that opens the eyes of anyone in the audience who may have not experienced it themselves, not for victimization but for empathy and recognition of their place and privilege in society. As we practiced in Mr Emilio's class, my tone and my body language and my words will connect to a good storytelling actor and narrator, by shortening or extending with emotion and purpose, to bridge the gap between my experiences and theirs.

There is something heartbreaking about dissent, the fact that rhetoric of dissent comes with trials and tribulations. That dissent even exists in a negative space. I want to express that heartbreak, to express true dissent throughout my story and experiences but also come back with it at the end - a final Crescendo if you will. Share my own dissent in the world and the system that I have been raised in, the society that I was entered into without my consent, adding it to the world of lies being thrown at me by every media I consume. No matter what I do as a woman, it will simply never be enough for everyone and I have to accept that other people will dissent towards and about me, and I can dissent against them too. I hope to explore that my distrust doesn't just come from my experiences but what I've been taught, the way I was raised. I hope to

share that my personal rhetoric of dissent does not have to be everyone's rhetoric of dissent, albeit may connect and consume others due to the amount of emotion and consideration within it. It may also simply produce silence, if so I will let them sit in that silence and let them question that silence, what that says about them and their personal dissent about me and my experience.

The big theory or concept for this presentation is rooted within attribution theory, or attribution error as my political science class likes to call it. It's important to me that I rip away some of the layers that people consider that I have, rip away an idea of which people think that I am. That I'm liberal *just because* I'm a white woman living in a liberal city. That I'm passionate *just because* my only trauma was assault. Neither are true and I'm hopeful that with this presentation, that I'm able to break away these layers. Everyone in our classroom and everyone at school and everyone in my life, looks at me in a certain lens and I'm tired of it. I hate attribution theory and I'm tired of feeling like people think that they know me when they don't know who I am. I put on a different face for each class, each subject, each job, each person in my family and household in my life. I put on a mask for myself. Truth I struggled to connect with in therapy and in my own mind. A question that I hope to ask is “Did you truly see me, or did you filter my words through your preconceived notions?” Perhaps some saw vulnerability where I intended strength. Perhaps others dismissed my dissent as exaggeration.

By the end of my monologue and presentation I hope to shatter the idea that they have any hope to understand who I am besides what I've shown. I want them to question, not just me but any woman.

Question the why, question the truth and what they consider to be real. I attempted to wrestle for control of the narrative, forcing the audience to confront their assumptions and, hopefully, reconsider them. Through the narrative paradigm, I wove a story that resonated

beyond my individual experiences. Through the rhetoric of dissent, I challenged the world's expectations and voiced my distrust. Through attribution theory, I confronted the fractured perceptions others hold of me. My monologue was not just a performance but a reflection—a mirror for both myself and my audience.

As women, we navigate a world that often misunderstands, misjudges, and mistrusts us. My monologue was my way of reclaiming agency, of demanding to be seen and heard on my own terms, no one else's. Ultimately, it invites everyone to question: “What stories are we missing? What truths do we overlook because we're too focused on the masks others wear?”