

Reflection Journal

You are encouraged, in your reflection, to be honest. The subject matter may be sensitive, at times. Allow the reflection to give the space to be honest about your thoughts on what's happening in society, and what's happening in your life.

Day One

Focus: Why does reporting on a story involving minority communities tend to focus on the negative? Is that [always] the case? Is that [always] a bad thing? Is the truth always negative? Who (or what) determines what "truth" is?

Reporting a story on minority communities tend to be more negative than any story because reports usually tend to originate from poverty minority communities, assuming the racial stereotype which brings a more visual pattern of "minorities struggling and needing help in these communities" than showing why they're struggling in the first place. Due to the systematic racism, minorities are seen to have lower incoming jobs or not having jobs at all, relying on the government to assist them. However, it's a helpful and degrading occurrence that brings attention to the struggling minority communities due to systematic racism but brings an assuming degrading racial stereotype that presents minorities as always struggling and/or poor individuals. The truth shouldn't always be straight negativity or else hope or strength wouldn't exist. I believe the truth should always be determined by the community itself.

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Today's Reflection

1. How will you "bear witness" to truth in your life, right now?
2. Students will choose a story from a local/national media outlet or publication. Respond to the following: How is the author bearing witness to the truth in his/her story?

Publications	Television News Outlets
Atlanta Journal Constitution Gwinnett Daily Press The Atlanta Voice	FOX 5 WSBTV (Channel 2 News) 11Alive
Pulitzer Resources (Go to "Reporting" or "Issues")	

Day Two

Focus: You will scan a local news publication. What sorts of stories do you notice? Which ones seem absent? Why do you believe this is the case?

For me, "bearing witness" is taking responsibility and responding to a situation that is needed to be known about, even if the event is hurtful or triggering, it is essential for people to acknowledge it and understand its significance and impact upon other lives. To "bear witness", my response is to share the event and make sure it reaches people, if it is needed, break down what happened and its impact/effect on communities. I need to make sure that I open my eyes and truly understand and observe what is happening around me, show I can genuinely make a difference. Fox 5 often uses illustrations such as charts and/or diagrams along with interviews and pictures/videos.

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Day Three

Focus: What biases do I have? How did I come to them? If I were honest with myself, has my gaze impeded my ability to see certain groups in a favorable way? What do I need to do to reframe my gaze, so that I can look upon everyone justly?

A bias I have is against trump supporters, in 2016 when Donald J. Trump was running for president I automatically knew that I do not like him however many others did support them. I do believe that my gaze has impacted the way I see the community, I feel like everyone that supports him republican or not, is questionable towards my wellbeing along with others. I should most definitely take the time and actually talk and listen to a trump supporter and leave everyone with a blank slate for themselves to fill.

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Day Four

Focus: What is the connection between joy and justice?

The connection between joy and justice is that both come from your perspectives and certain events. The will to pursue what you believe is right brings a feeling of righteousness and pride, just being able to communicate your true feelings with others who share the same opinions, which can bring enjoyment and joy. Justice can also bring joy since you're fighting for what you believe is right, and the verse visa for joy. Wanting to have rights to your joy without having anyone tell you it's wrong is the fight for justice.

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Day Five

Focus: What specific idea, quotation, or text, from the week, keeps you thinking the most? Why?

The idea of how our perspectives affect our biases and what the correct way of bearing witness is has kept me thinking for a while. This is because it has made me question the way I have thought of certain things and the impact on the choices I make through sharing stories and ideas that are important.