

Who I am in Gender, Dress, and Society is someone unique. To me it also stands for *culture*. What IS *culture*, you might ask? Culture includes knowledge, beliefs, art, morals, laws, customs etc. I decided to turn a white shirt into a red and blue tie dye shirt. The red and blue dictate the colors of the Dominican flag. The blue represents *liberty*, the white for *salvation*, and the red for *the blood of heroes*. I think it is very important for one to take pride in their own culture. I love my culture. The food I consume, the music I listen to, AND most importantly my roots all derive from the Dominican Republic. Our music is getting so much recognition now it's crazy it's getting heard by people around the world!

I decided to add the phrase, "Si me matan, sacaré los brazos de la tumba y seré más fuerte" which was a quote by Minerva Mirabal. This translates to, "If they kill me, I will take my arms out of the grave and I will be stronger". In the front of the shirt, I decided to add the number 809 because that is the area code number in the Dominican Republic.. So many things we do on our day to day basis are all influenced by African culture, or for some.. our ancestors.

I am in love with my culture. It has shaped me into who I am today. I am proud to be Dominican. More importantly an Afro-Dominicana!

