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T-Shirt Project

I decided to try printing my designs on the t-shirt because I'm not good at drawing and I didn't want to make a mistake in the middle of drawing that'll make me start again on a new t-shirt. The blank I used is a white Uniqlo Adult Short-Sleeve T-Shirt that is 100% cotton in a size large. With that being said, I used their UTme! Custom Print Service to print my design on the t-shirt. The Uniqlo employees used a printer and a heat press instead of the traditional screen printing which gave the print a smooth *texture* rather than a rough one. I only printed the front design at Uniqlo because they could only print on the front of the t-shirt. For the back print, I had to go to another printing company which was Triboro Printing. The designs I used were the logo for the New York City Parks, New York spelled out in the New York Mets font, and a unisphere illustration of the one in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. I used Adobe Photoshop for the first time to edit, *reshape*, and merge the designs. It was a tough process because I had never used photoshop prior to this project but I got through it, I think. I erased the New York City part of the NYC Parks logo and merged it with the New York design, with the New York design on top of the NYC Parks logo. I placed the New York design on top because the design is curved and the NYC Parks logo is a bigleaf maple inside of a circle, so they go hand and hand with each other. I placed this design in the front of the t-shirt in the chest area. For the unisphere illustration, I edited the photo so the edges can look clean and smooth. I also changed the *color* from black to navy blue because I wanted it to match the blue *color* on the New York design. I placed this design on the back of the t-shirt because I didn't want the front of the t-shirt to be congested and this design is meant to be large.

The first design I used is the New York City Parks logo. I decided to apply this design in my t-shirt because I spent a lot of time at the park when I was younger, it was close to my home, and it represents the neighborhood I grew up in: Elmhurst Queens. Between the sixth grade and the tenth grade, I would hang out at the park a block away from my home, the Moore Homestead Playground or as I call it, Broadway Park. At this park, I learned to look out for the friends I care and have love for because I was treated the same way by the friends I made at this park. We would share food or drinks with each other if we only had enough for one, or we would get food for each other if one of us didn't have money. This park also toughened me up because at the time I was small and weak in terms of size and how I felt in the inside. I couldn't let people treat me differently because of my size (which did occur a couple of times) so I had to learn to stand up for myself. I also learned right from wrong at this park. This park had a lot going on, there would be gangbangers and drug dealers in the park and fights occurred occasionally. Being exposed to this, taught me what's right from wrong, influenced my decision making and made me the person I am today.

The other two designs I used is New York spelled out in the NY Mets font and an unisphere illustration. I added these designs on my t-shirt because it represents Queens, the borough I grew up in. The font of the New York spell out design is based off the New York Mets baseball team which represents Queens. I'm not a baseball fanatic or a New York Mets fan but I will always represent the team because I'm representing my home. I added the unisphere illustration because it's a symbol for Queens, and the actual unisphere is inside Flushing

Meadows Corona Park which is in Queens. The unisphere also represents how diverse Queens is and the people that make up the borough. The people in Queens are hardworking and hustlers as they must make ends meet. Seeing these people throughout my neighborhood influenced me as I'm constantly working hard and hustling whether it's about money or school. As I'm writing this, I'm listening to Nas' "The World Is Yours" and this song always reminds of the unisphere because both Nas and the unisphere are from Queens and it symbolizes how the entire world can be found in Queens.



