

Tabitha Demero

Prof. R Garcia

Eng 1121 HD18

15 May 2022

## Final Portfolio

### **Unit 1: Investigating a Discourse Community**

#### Letter of Disparity

Dear CEO of Engineering Company/Institution,

There was a woman who came from Haiti, she did well for herself, made a family and established a career. She became an engineer and was hired instantly, the job even paid for her undergrad to grad studies. She gave about 20 yrs to a company who let her go. From being a part of major changing projects, training those above and below her, and being one of the few black female engineers in the company; she was gone in an instant. Not only was she the only black female engineer but every other black colleague was let go. There are many women who have experienced a similar story as my mother. Which introduces my claim that women of color are logistically targeted by their colleagues in any aspect of tech/engineering jobs because of their race and gender

Women alone face a financial disparity against their male colleagues with a percentage range of 13-25%. With women in general earning less than males in the

same job title, about one-third of the stated percentage is associated to black women making less than any other race of women. There are many cases of women calling out companies for paying their male employees 3x more than their women employees, which add another factor of discouragement of black women in engineering careers. Those same male colleagues who benefit from unequal pay are also prejudiced against their female coworkers. According to Pew Research Article, "women are more likely to see discrimination in recruitment, hiring, and promotions... in STEM". 48% women face discrimination in recruitment, hiring and promotions. Therefore, when black women take into account, the unequal pay and mistreatment in a career they spent a rough 6 yrs of education to build a career in they will deem it unachievable to succeed. The statistics and research shows how black women are being mistreated in the workforce and unequally paid for the same amount of work or even more than those around them.

As we take into account the imperativeness of the issues mentioned which take place in the engineering field. These types of issues can't be fixed overnight but there is an attainable solution. If you, the CEO of said company, down to branch overseers, be assertive of calling out injustice, not making light of micro-aggressive acts, enforcing others to treat women as an equal. Though our training may be set in place in reteaching manners and decorum in that subject. The poster face for those disparities are women, more specifically black women. The power imbalance and mis-distributed pay differences set by male colleagues to ultimately make them feel inadequate or incompetant. Black women already face enough in society and with the statistics set in place it is more of a hurdle which set black women up for failure one way or another in the profession. These issues are something so arrogantly placed, it can be addressed

swiftly by the help of those in authority i.e you; the men who uphold the power to do so to administer those changes.

Nevertheless, to again emphasize the issues of black women in mechanical engineering or any engineering field, it's imperative to take accountability for nurturing those issues. Black women can be given equal pay easily, why is that even an issue? They also can be treated fairly instead of being prejudiced against by their colleagues. Its a CEO's job to adhere and take action to implement change. By just doing what is right can help change the future years to come. With less minor issues we can focus on major societal issues still dealing with race and gender. I share the injustice my mother faced; of being a black engineer woman; to prove that these issues are real and are faced by many other black women. Her story is a mere summary of other stories black women endure which I suspect are far worse. Additionally, the issues that were blatantly placed before you are not encouraging to me at all; as a black female engineering student. The other black women who aspire to have a career in the field may not be emotionally affected but it will affect them inevitably since these issues will come face to face. From financial disparity to ill treatment, black women have had their fair share in issues in any form. As a company, one must be willing to accept others while treating those with equality and respect. It is your job to make the first change into combating these issues of prejudice and unequal pay black women face in the mechanical engineer field especially those employed by you.

With all being said and addressed I thank you for your time and consideration.

A Future Female Mech Engineer,

Tabitha Demero

## Unit 2: Op-Ed Essay

### Texas vs Abortions

There are many discussions about abortion and where it fits in society. Those who lead those discussions are most commonly a party of conservative males. A new policy/law that was set in place by the Texas Supreme Court where abortion has a limit of 6-weeks. A law that is an issue for women, obviously unreasonable and ideally unrealistic. There are a massive amount of inconveniences that may occur, where this new law can be a hindrance to women. Some women are unaware of their pregnancies up until their 2nd trimester. Abortion laws are extremely problematic in the sense of women's alienable rights and health reasons. The Texas state government, or any government should not be able to make and set said laws for women. It may serve as a contradiction to the Declaration of Independence where one has rights to their own individual bodies.

In september of 2021 the Texas Supreme Court set forth a new ruling known as the SB 8, which limits abortions after 6-weeks. Not even 6 months post ruling, predicted concerns have started to come true. There are many women who are unaware of their pregnancies until after 6 months which is a 2-week grace period to be sure that their period is late and to deem pregnancy. Their way of knowing is if their period is 2 weeks late, which is the same time they have little to no time for an abortion. This ruling is a hindrance for many women who have susceptible to rape or any unwanted health risks. Women in those states have to travel to other states; which is limited to only two states near by who offer abortions; causing a prolonged and more dangerous risk to the mother. In addition, not many women have resources to travel to other states to afford an abortion. This law has no exception for anyone and holds many faults. Doctors are not even to

help aid a patient to get an abortion or provide it as an option. "I think the interpretation of the bill, through multiple layers, has been fantastically communicated, but that doesn't make the bill any better," Dr. John Thoppil, president of the Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Doctors communicate with diligence when trying to help patients whose only choice is an abortion for the sake of their life. Although there are many pro-lifers who stand behind this new law, they lack the dangers of outcomes that will stem from an unwanted or unplanned fetus.

Abortion has always been a dire topic for women's rights. Abortion being associated with a negative connotation many people view it as an unmoral or unethical medical act against human life. Pro-lifers and anti-abortion groups argue against abortion stating that it is an unholy or unmoral to kill a human before it has the choice itself. Apart from pro-life groups, there are republicans and religious groups who are also against abortion that support the new SB8 law. However, abortion is an extreme necessity to the medical field regarding a pregnant woman and her health prevents doctors from. Making abortion illegal or limiting the access, only further complicates the situation by- delay in preventing injuries, providing basic care, and increases death rates in unsafe abortions. In the Roe vs Wade case of 1972, the Supreme Court stated, "The Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects against state action the right to privacy, and a woman's right to choose to have an abortion falls within that right to privacy" ("Roe v. Wade." *Oyez*, [www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-18](http://www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-18). Accessed 10 Apr. 2022.). For further explanation; the case decided it is between the mother and her doctor to decide whether it is safe to have an abortion or not. Criminalizing and limiting access of abortion does not plummet the use of the medical opinion but rather increases health risks for mothers and the unborn fetus.

Abortion should not be seen as something so vulgar to any person. Rather should be looked at as a right to privacy and use of a medical system. Abortion helps saves the lives of many women. So setting a new policy of only a 6-week grace period abortion is unrealistic and unachievable. It goes against the natural rights of Due Process and the right to privacy of women controlling their bodies. A state government is unable to set laws on a woman's body because of their lack of knowledge on the matter regarding a woman's situation. The choice should be given to the woman alone to take action or not. Limiting abortion is discrimination and provides negative outcomes.

### **Unit 3: Multimodal Project**

Twitter thread on the SB-8 ruling in texas

[TwitterThreadOnSB-8 Ruling](#)



## **Final Reflection**

### Reflection Essay

This has been one of my tough semesters thus far. This course in general gave me a breath of fresh air every Monday and Wednesday. From the journal writing assignments to interesting articles, it's all been a joy from my mathematical based classes on behalf of my major. One of my enjoyable pieces are the class discussions whenever we were given an article and had to write our thoughts on it. Those discussion posts were a bit more free-writing judgment free zone which is what I needed. Those writing pieces in some way aided in my clear minded space, away from all the numbers and technical aspects of everything else. Though in most of my writing pieces there was a bit of struggling to get all my ideas out on paper for them to make sense. So for me the discussion posts were if not one of the only things I enjoyed in this class.

Though I've had good experiences, they don't retract the unfortunate experiences I've had. Not to say there was any form of miscommunication between me and the students or the professor, but this is a writing class and you are bound to get diagnosed with writer's block. With most of the assigned unit work and our first essay, I was stuck on what to write. Dismantles any thoughts of ill instructions on the professor's part; she made it her goal to give as much clarity on assignments as possible. I just wasn't sure what to write. I didn't really have enough to write about because there wasn't a lot to write about. The unit one essay was to write about our discourse issues. The issues in my discourse are very limited and straightforward so I struggled in expanding it into the essay. There is so much expanding I can do before it sounds repetitive. So with writer's block and insufficient resources, I delivered a horrible essay. Was I incapable of providing a decent essay?, which was a recurring question in 10th grade all over again with my

English teacher pointing out everything I did wrong or what wasn't flowing nicely, I was discouraged.

In more ways than one I've learned that it will take many revisions and time to be content with something. Even if you've had a vision of what you wanted to write about it may not come out as such, because there is more than one way to perfect. When you're willing to be open to other ideas and see things from another lens/point-of-view then your creative space will be more versatile than it was last. For me it was easy for me to accept criticism because of how direct Prof. Garcia was; she even gave an alternative suggestion for which I chose to implement or alter the way I liked it or pulled out what I intended to say more clearly. Another thing I loved from this prof, is how comfortable she is. Prof. Garcia is one of those one in 3 semesters were you have an extremely understanding professor. The space that the professor created was so welcoming and it was easy to be constructive and grow in. From great constructive criticism to taking the time out to getting the resources you need to pass the class.

There's always something to learn from, always a lesson in something. English is where someone vocally or writtenly expresses themselves which is obvious. This course is very helpful in realizing what the other person is trying to express to you. In most of the readings, we see people with their own issues outlay their problems or the issues around them. So dissecting to understand their point-of-view is very helpful in the real world because you won't become that biased right or left winger or arrogant. Courses like these help you in the long run believe it or not and I'm grateful for what I've been taught.