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# Professor Wu

# ENG 1101/OL10

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# UNIT TWO RAB PROJECT

# Introduction

**My research topic is: How has the pandemic affected Asian American women? feelings of vulnerability?**

This topic interests me because I am Asian and a woman. It just saddens me to find that the most vulnerable Asians are getting most attacked. I am concerned about the possibility of my family getting racist attack. Mentally, it is negatively affecting me and all my family members because apparently there are still a lot of anti-Asian hate crimes in America. I already know that racism has existed for a long time, and it is not something new.  However, sadly, as Coronavirus spread through the U.S, hate crimes against Asians started spiking as well, especially women. Some points that I plan to explore and find out more about are: As the Asian hate crime is still on the rise, why are most of the victims are women? What exactly is behind the rise in Asian women hate crime? Why is it happening in America?

# Source Entry#1

**PART1: MLA CITATION**

Karen Zraick. “Man Charged With Hate Crimes After 7 Asian Women Are Attacked in 2 Hours.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 3 Mar. 2022, www.nytimes.com/2022/03/02/nyregion/asian-women-attacked-nypd.html.

**MAIN IDEA (MI)** Asian American women are increasingly becoming victims of hate crimes and aggravated harassment and harassment during the pandemic, adversely influencing their safety.

**SUPPORTING DETAIL 1**

During the pandemic, there has been increased anti-Asian violence due to hate crimes; police records over 131 bias incidents against Asians in 2021 compared to 28 recorded in 2020 and 3 in 2019.

**SUPPORTING DETAIL 2**

An assailant approached a Fifty-seven-year-old woman of Asian American descent about half a mile from East 30th street and Madison Avenue. The assailant punched her in the face without uttering a word, a nightmare that repeated itself with other subsequent victims.

**SUPPORTING DETAIL 3**

Attacks against people of Asian American descent have led to four deaths; Chinese immigrant Yao Pan Ma, Michelle Alyssa Go, Christina Yuna Lee and GuiYing Ma, compromising their safety.

**PART2: SUMMARY**

In the “Man Charged With Hate Crimes After 7 Asian Women Are Attacked in 2 Hours”, Karen Zraick reports increasing hate crimes, and harassment against Asian Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. The author states that, hate and physical attacks on Asian American have made them fear for their safety. Many Asian American women continue to live in fear of such attacks and harassment. She further provided information about the recent attacks by Steven Zajonc, aged 28 years. He punched, elbowed in the face and mouth of Asian women without saying a word in New York. The author included other related events such as assaults on a Korean diplomat and the killing of Yao Pan Ma, Michelle Alyssa Go, Christina Yuna Lee and GuiYing Ma. Most of these victims are women aged between 16 and 57 years old. The rise of anti-violence against Asian Americans women can be associated with possible increased risk of violence, hate crimes and killings.

**PART 3A: REFLECTION**

Reading this article makes me angry that this young man kept attacking 7people within minutes apart, targeting only women. I find these events disgusting and heartbreaking because they attack knowing that the other person is weaker than you. I work in the area where this series of assaults happened. It scares me to think that one of the victims could have been me. In the article, Karen said “Anti-Asian violence in the city has soared during the pandemic.” I strongly believe Asian Americans have become more fearful of recent harassment, threat and anticipate a return to normality after the crisis. I’m worried about such actions because they display disregard for humanity and nationality. I think in such cases it’s tough for victims to prove their attackers’ racist motives, which makes cases like this challenging. Recently, I have noticed these events carefully, whether in the television news or in the newspaper, these assailants are mostly homeless or live in the shelter. They target mostly Asian women. I wonder why that is? Are they mentally unstable as most of the reports state?

**PART3B: RHETORICAL/GENRE ANALYSIS**

The New York Times is a reliable source of different types of information. Due to its educated audience, the source has qualified and reputable writers who help it reach its objective to inform the public. The author of this article is a breaking news and general news reporter and editor at the NYT. Her audience is everyone. In addition, one of the things I found useful was the fact that she also provided a short video clip in the middle of the article, showing the suspect walking through the area from the night of the incident. The purpose of her article was to inform readers about how a man attacked 7 Asian women in two-hours spree in Manhattan.

**PART4: NOTABLE QUOTABLE.**

“There was no prior interaction, and no statements were made, in any of the incidents, '' the police said. The man’s image was captured by surveillance cameras on Sunday in several locations.” (Karen Para 8).

“We are sharing this because the attack on this Asian American artist, which happened near Seward Park not far from where Christina Yuna Lee was tragically murdered, is another incident in a long history of violence against Asian Americans,” (Karen Para 16).

“Condemnation is not enough,” (Karen Para 20).

**Source Entry#2**

**PART1 MLA CITATION**

Dewan, Shaila. “How Has Racism and Sexism Intertwine to Torment Asian-American Women” *New York Times*, 18 Mar. 2021. https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/18/us/racism-sexism-atlanta-spa-shooting.html

**MAIN IDEA**: Racism and sexism intertwined to torment Asian American women.

**SUPPORTING DETAIL1:** The attacks on Asian women are caused by racially motivated, sexually motivated or both.

**SUPPORTING DETAIL3**: Poverty and war gave rise to a prostitute industry that provided compounding stereotypes of Asian women.

**SUPPORTING DETAIL3**: Federal data suggest victims of most violent hate crimes are men but according to a group called Stop AAPI Hate, In 2020 and 2021, more than two-thirds of the reports came from women.

**PART 2 SUMMARY**:

In her article “How Racism and Sexism Intertwine to Torment Asian-American Women,” New York Times journalist Shaila Dewan believes that the attack on Asian women is racially or sexually motivated. She studies examples of past attacks against Asian women to make her point. For example, the gunman who fatally shot six Asian women in Atlantic spa, said that his actions were caused by sexual addictions, not racially motivated. She also mentions that history of poverty and war gave rise to prostitute industry that provided compounding stereotypes of Asian women. Moreover, for decades, Asian-American women have been stereotyped as sexually submissive and portrayed in popular culture as exotic. Federal data suggest victims of most violent hate crimes are men. However, a recent analysis by a group called Stop AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Hate said, in 2020 and 2021, more than two-thirds of the reports came from women. Hate crimes against Asian women are undercounted. One of the reasons is that those with a sexual dimension tend to be classified as sex offender, erasing the racial aspect.

**PART 3A REFLECTION**:

Asian American women are more affected by COVID-19’s anti-Asian rhetoric. Dewan states, attacks against Asian women had to be racially or sexually motivated, or both. I agree with her because this isn’t just racial issues that create such crimes, but a continuing oppression of women. As an Asian and woman myself, I can relate to this crime. One time I was walking in the Elmhurst area a man walked past me on the sidewalk and leaned in and whispered in my ear, “massage-massage.” The fetishization of Asian women dates back into history. I don’t consider fetishizing Asian women as a compliment but an excuse for mistreating them. Therefore, it is directly linked to sexual violence against Asian women. After reading her article, I learned that in the wake of the pandemic, anti-Asian rhetoric has surged. Asian women are at greater risk due to Covid19 and the history of stigmatization of Asian women.

**PART 3B RHETORICAL/GENRE ANALYSIS**:

Shaila Dewan publishes her article in The New York Times, which has remained in business over 170 years and has won countless awards for its journalism. The overall tone of this article is frustration, and her points are clearly stated. The purpose of her writing is to educate people that Asian American women are at more risk of attacks, their attacks data are undercounted, and there were many Asian American women died of sexual violence which was also racialized. The author of this article is a national reporter and editor covering criminal justice issues, including persecution and incarceration. Her audience is everyone.  The occasion of this article is increasing attacks happening against Asian women at present.

**PART 4 NOTABLE QUOTABLE**:

“I think the origin of these massage parlors can be traced back to Korean War brides and military wives,” [Dr. Park] (Dewan Para 25)

The fetishization of Asian women was reinforced in popular culture, most notably with the lines spoken by a sex worker in a scene in “Full Metal Jacket,” a Vietnam War movie, as two soldiers try to bargain down her price: “Me so horny. Me love you long time.” [Dr. Park] (Dewan Para 29)

“A few words pack an entire history into a sentence,” [Dr. Park] (Dewan Para 31)

**Source Entry#3**

PART 1: MLA CITATION

Walker, Amara, reporter. “*Anxious to Let My Features Show: Asian American Women Share Fear of Harassment*.” CNN, 29 Mar. 2022.

<https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2022/03/29/asian-american-women-fear-racist-violence-harassment-pkg-nr-vpx.cnn>

**PART 2: SUMMARY**

CNN News correspondent Amara Walker reported in the CNN news clip “Anxious to let my features show: Asian American women share fear of harassment.” The video highlighted a rise in racism and violent attacks, specifically against women. Walker interviewed four Asian American women living and working in New York City. First interviewee Amanda Shi told the reporter that a stranger followed her a whole block and yelled racial slurs at her. She further stated that spring is here, she is afraid to shed the layers that show her Asian features. The second interviewee, Annie Kim, agreed with her. She said she had been targeted multiple times, even with the full covered clothing and a mask on. In addition, she states that a woman said to her ‘You Asian bitch, I will kill you, chop your head off’ while approaching toward her. Thirdly, actress and activist Carolyn Kang stated that in the subway, a man cursed at her and blamed her for Coronavirus. Then, after just 3 months, two men were walking past her in Brooklyn. One punched her and screamed made-up Asian words at her. In the past year’s headlines, Walker mentions that a 67-year-old Asian woman was beaten and punched more than 125 times. Michelle Gu was pushed to her death on an oncoming train track. Six women were killed in a shooting spree in Atlanta. Lastly, Walker interviewed an Asian member of Congress, Grace Meng. She expressed fears about the most vulnerable mothers and grandmothers who came to this country and gave so much. Now they are being attacked and killed.

**PART 3A: REFLECTION**

I agree with what Walker says in the CNN news clip, because Asian American women do get targeted more. It is something we’ve witnessed several times. Prior to the pandemic, I commuted almost every day on the NYC subway. Now, I avoid it either by using my bike or having my family members drop me off. I learned a new strategy to protect myself from the video when Carolyn Kang said that she stood against a wall, so that nobody could push her from behind. However, it was very sad to watch this video clip and hear Annie Kim. She is indeed a beautiful woman but wants to cover up her skin so that no one notices her Asian features. How sad it is to hide our true identity in order to go about our lives. We should not be living in such a way. I would recommend this video to Asian American women, so they could be more aware of their surroundings and learn from these possible attacks.

**PART 3B: RHETORICAL/GENRE ANALYSIS**

CNN is known for its outstanding breaking news and even won Emmy Awards for network-record six news and documentary. The genre of this piece is a news video. The video clip is effective because it showed locations where the incidents happened. The video appeals to viewer’s emotions of empathy and fear. The purpose of this interview is to raise awareness of the plight of Asian women who live every day in fear and are constantly threatened with violence. The occasion of video is the numerous attacks happening now nationwide. This interview is intended for all audiences. The information Walker conveyed was efficient and clearly expressed in less than five minutes. Walker is an anchor and correspondent at CNN. She has covered several live major international news events including Atlanta massacre and 2020 presidential vote recount in Georgia.

**PART 4: NOTABLE QUOTABLE**

“Shi said, when everybody is excited as spring is here but part of me is happy, part of me is so anxious shedding these layers, letting this feature show.” (4:15)

“Kim said that a woman screamed at her, '' You Asian bitch, I will kill you and chop your head off.” (1:37)

“Kim said that I have asked strangers to walk me home.” (4:)

**Conclusion**

After searching for information on how the pandemic affects Asian American women’s fear of being attacked, it gave me a deeper understanding of why Asian women are often the victims of racist attacks. For me, the thought of being harassed and assaulted for the simple reason that I am an Asian woman is extremely frightening and alarming. I feel that the research I did is extremely important, as I have been the victim of such racist attacks. I discovered that data of attacks is undercounted by federal authorities. However, an organization called Stop AAPI Hate, reports that in 2020,201, two thirds of the reports were from female victims. I found out that the those with a sexual dimension tend to be classified as sex offender, erasing the racial aspect. Our former president Trump’s anti-Asian rhetoric is also partly responsible for the racist attack. Attacks including punching, elbowing, pushing, shooting were done without uttering a word by complete strangers. Thus, they (WHO) live in fear every day. While I knew that there were a lot of racist attacks going on against Asians, I had no idea why most of the victims were women. I learned from my research that there’s a fetishization of Asian women dating back to history for decades and they have been stereotyped as sexually submissive. Attack against Asian women are often motivated not only by racial motives, but also by sexual motives. Therefore, Asian women are at greater risk due to Covid19 and the history of stigmatization of Asian women. The audience I am most interested in writing for is Asian American women. If I were to share my opinion, I would choose an op-ed as a genre. I would like to inform them to ensure that they understand why we are the most vulnerable among our community and be cautious.