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SBS 3201
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While closing out on an inspirational semester in social behavioral science of gender, dress, and society, I began to wonder how do I fit in today's society in terms of gender and dress. I've realized most people desire to fit in society to connect with other sharing interest or value, in my opinion it is ok to stand out from everyone else with your own mindset and uniqueness Using a sweatshirt, I creatively constructed by painting and drawing to display the type of person I am.

Starting with a white fleece sweatshirt 50% cotton along with 50% polyester. The sweatshirt featured a ribbed waistband as well as on the cuffs to provide a secure fit. The first modification I performed to the sweatshirt was cutting the waistband to get rid of the *snug* against my waist to provide a *looser* feeling as well as modifying the appearance to be viewed as *oversize*. After cutting the garment I began to brainstorm ideas on what would be the best way to describe who I am, where I come from along with the type of person I am. Growing up born and raised in Brooklyn shaped me into the person I am, living in not one of the unsafe neighborhoods in Brooklyn taught me how to stand up for myself from being bullied created this tough layer over my skin. Living in Brooklyn motivated me to want better for myself seeing people I went to school with deciding to stand on street corners for at least 8 hours instead of working gave me the urge to want better for myself allowing me to gain the courage to further my education. To be honest I would want to have it any other way growing up somewhere else Brooklyn is a one-of-

a-kind place as a child I have multiple memories of block parties, riding my bike down hills, jumping over fences with my friends, buying sodas for the tops and running to the hardware store for putty to play skully in the middle of the street. To represent Brooklyn on the back of the garment I wrote names of neighborhoods in different color paint such as Brooklyn Heights, Park Slope, Red Hook, Coney Island, Bed-Stuy, Flatbush most importantly where I grew up and live Brownsville. Surrounding the places in Brooklyn I've added words such as "emotionally intelligent" to express how tuned I am with dealing with my emotions being fully aware of my weakness and strengths as well as being able to understand others' emotions in order to communicate better seeing things from others perspective besides my own. Other words are added like "self-motivated" which describes how self-aware I am knowing what works for me or what best for myself and what doesn't, I added confident for the simple fact I was bullied a lot throughout my childhood for factors like my sexuality which I tend to block out with the fun memories but endure that trauma taught me how to walk with my head high being proud of myself, the word confident ties into my profession life with school completing my assignments or projects with full faith in myself. The word "innovator" expresses the type of person I strive to be in the future especially with the career, in fashion I want to be a merchandiser creating promotions for the produce to enhance the brand. From working in retail, I was able to experience multiple positions from cashier to inventory along with stock finding the most joy in visual merchandising changing the way customer spend their time in the store whether it was creating ensembles on mannequins along with their placements overall creating an amazing atmosphere for the customer and I would like to carry that on within my field.

On the back of the sweatshirt, I painted the words "Legends Never Die" outlined in black to fill inside with red. This term was something my late brother used in a way to strive for the best to create a life where you're successful living everyday like it's your last treating others with the upmost respect to where they remember you. Growing with 9 older siblings was fun I had someone to play with regularly or confide in where it was needed 4 sisters taught me a lot of things like how to play trouble or connect four, but my 5 brothers are so special to me. My brothers were always there for me when I needed them, I called them my permeant protectors, loosing one of my brothers in 2020 was the worst thing I've experienced so far in my life I was left confused on so many levels allowing me to see the importance of having siblings. Since the death of my brother, I vowed to become more closer with everyone else because life is short but very precious and were not aware of what the future holds, during my brother's birthday or anniversary date those who live in New York come together visiting his grave site to reminisce on the times we've spent with him wearing t-shirts with the words "Legends Never Die" next to the words is the number 7 which is his nickname with a halo above it to acknowledgement very similar to the tattoo I have placed on my left forearm since I'm a lefty the left is my strongest and dominant side.