

Front of Musarat's T – shirt



Back of Musarat's T – shirt



## T – shirt Final Essay

I totally believe in the idea of being true to myself, despite of what others expect me to be. I am what I am and I love myself for it. Some people might argue that if you don't change yourself, you will be left alone, it is true to some extent but I mean is it really a loss if you lose a few people in the way of life when you were being yourself? Not really! Because when you are your authentic self, you attract people for the right reasons, you won't have to change yourself to fit in, if people really love and value you they will accept you for who you are and not pressurize you to change.

The words I picked are "shukhriya, next" (shukhriya means thank you in Urdu) so you might have gotten the message that I am saying "Thank you, next" which is a popular song by Ariana Grande. I really like this song's message of thanking all the people who weren't meant to stay in your life for a long time but still you take each one of them as a lesson and learn from it and move further in life with positivity. So, I incorporated it with an Urdu language twist by using Shukhriya - Urdu for Thank you. So basically, I am saying "Thank you" to all the people who left me simply because I was being myself. I used certain words which were used like taunts by the people who left me for being me. In the center, I also wrote my name "Musarat" in Urdu, and in the back, I wrote its meaning "happiness" in English.

I wrote "the halal girl" (Halal here means pure in Arabic). The word halal is symbolic to the fact that I'm still a virgin and I'm keeping myself pure for the man I'll marry. Many times, I was targeted by some co-workers and toxic friends for being my pure self and was mocked for following my religion too seriously. So here I am taking that taunt positively in my life.

I wrote "unapologetically Desi" (Desi means traditional in Hindi) as many times I was told that I am too traditional, I was often told that I should be more like other brown American people and more westernized like them. But here also, I am taking that "you're too Desi for us" excuse and replying them in the words on my T shirt by saying that I am "unapologetically Desi", it's my choice, it's my culture and I'm very proud of it! As I believe, that there's nothing wrong with staying true to your roots!

Also, I wrote "Don't stereotype me!" as we covered the idea of stereotyping many times in the semester, as how the whole group is labelled out of pure ignorance just because of a few past experiences from a bunch of people from that group. For example, after the 9/11 attacks, most of us Muslims have suffered because of a stereotype that "all Muslims are terrorists" which is so not true. It is out of pure ignorance as my religion Islam is actually derived from the Arabic word "Salam" which literally means peace!