

“Who I am In Society”

SBS 3201

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Throughout my life, I’ve always embodied certain characteristics that were embedded in me since childhood. Growing up in the southside of Houston Texas, I was constantly exposed to “southern hospitality”. This concept was created to represent a sense of welcoming and warm approach to people overall. My heart grew a genuine love to connect with others, even if that meant through a simple conversation. These days it seems that society is overly busy, and so distracted with life and social media that we have forgotten the lost art of human interaction. My handcrafted tshirt portrays a combination of my most inner thoughts on the world we live in today and my personal aesthetic. During the design process, I ensured my shirt was an accurate representation of me.

I used a white cropped cotton ribbed tank top to express my identity and the role I play in society. I gathered several arts and crafts such as light pink acrylic paint, a block printing stamp, pearls, sparkly baby pink ribbon, and neon pink fur! I cut an old fur boa and formed a heart that was placed directly in the middle of the shirt. This heart signifies my love for all people and my willingness to help others as much as possible. My mother was adamant on being a “cheerful giver” and lending a helping hand in any way possible when others were in need. Surrounded by this generosity and compassion, I make it my mission to change one life at a time. Whether it's a donation, food, a compliment, prayer, or support, someone out there needs it. This heart in the middle of my shirt portrays just that. On the back of the shirt, I added the traditional peace sign

logo in a beautiful neon pink. This symbol was stamped using the block printing method and is a direct reflection of my dreams I have in the world. Imagine a planet of pure peace, more love, more conversation, more hope, more courage, more integrity, and more compassion. Although I fail at times, I try my hardest to remain at peace and spread peace despite adversity. Two sparkly baby pink ribbons *adhered* to the shoulder strap and the bottom seam is bejeweled with pearls (Eicher & Roach-Higgins, 1992). The gorgeous pink hues and pearl beads emphasize my girly aesthetic and true love for the color. Pink expresses my femininity and the power that lies within me. The color makes me feel confident and unstoppable, yet soft and innocent. The pearls lined along the seam pay homage to my mom and grandmother, two of my biggest inspirations who have assisted in molding the woman I am today. Pink unravels the several complex layers that dwell inside of me and every other woman in the world. A small pin that reads “righteous” was *clipped* onto the back of the shirt which expresses my *identity* through spirituality (Eicher & Roach-Higgins, 1992). Being righteous ensures that I live a life according to my ethical moral compass which was taught to me while being raised within the church.

Overall, this project genuinely depicts my character and true feelings of the world around me today. Creating the shirt helped me to dig into the depths of my being and shed light on things that are important to me. *Dress* and *identity* correlate to one's true self, which acts as a direct representation of who I am today in society.

