



Xinicol Gonzalez-Aguirre

T-Shirt Final Project

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### Femininity

When figuring out what I wanted to make or do for my t-shirt project, I was unsure of what design I wanted at first. I knew I wanted my shirt to stand out, have people pause, and glance at it for a second. When buying the plain white T-shirt, I knew I wanted to make a two-piece, and because of my thighs and small chest, I knew I needed a size XL. When cutting out the lines I decided to follow the curves of my body, as I folded the skirt to make it short, and even sewed the middle of both sides to make it fit, I decided to cut a deep v-neck and tie a bow in the middle of my chest to create this provocative look. Once done, I knew I wanted the color pink, as I feel that it symbolizes womanhood, and the feeling of femininity to be involved. While looking at the blank white two-piece, I remembered a time when I wore something similar and was called the words I decided to paint. The symbolism of the breast I drew on my chest area just amplifies the meaning a little more and reminds me of what being a woman is, and what empowerment I should feel instead of embarrassment.

When thinking about this class and what I've learned about myself, I knew I wanted my t-shirt to symbolize something important. As a woman, and as someone who has *struggled* in owning my body image and feeling feminine, I felt I needed to start showing the confidence I've gained. As you can see from viewing the two-piece, the design is plain but strong. I consider myself a very simple and minimal person, I like my outfits to be simple but send a message. The way I *pre-shaped* the soft *cotton* fabric to my body, allowing my body to *fill out* the gaps shows my real build, allowing me to embrace my true self. Earlier this year, during the summer, I had worn a very similar outfit to the two-piece I created, a black mini rolled-up skirt, and a black short-sleeve crop top that covered most of my stomach, along with a mini purse and kitten heels. I felt great and because of the heat, felt comfortable. As I was walking to the train station, I heard two men call me a slut and a hoe. Telling me I was "asking" for it. Although the sun was out, and there were many people around, I felt uncomfortable, disgusting, and ugly. I felt as though every inch of my body was exposed after being harassed and instantly hurried back home. Not going out after. I felt small and useless. I know many *family* members and even *friends* who have *felt* the same way I did at that moment and have even cried blaming themselves for not being more "modest". This surreal *feeling* is what created me to design this piece.

Dress has been a way, as a society, for us to indicate individuality. Gender, although not necessary, has also allowed us to express ourselves when it comes to clothes and appearances. I am proud of being a woman, and although many will get uncomfortable, call me names, or try to bring my womanhood down. I am proud of embracing my curves, my femininity, and my sex appeal through fashion. My design, although imperfect, reflects what many women, including myself, have gone through in trying to express ourselves and our bodies. Being assertive, strong-willed, and powerful is part of what being a woman is. The two-piece I call artwork allows for that assertion to be shown. Overall, I enjoyed this final project. I am not a designer, nor am I aiming to be a fashion designer. From this project though, I learned the difficulty it is to sew and cutting your own garment. I am glad I was able to express myself in a way I never thought I could. I might wear this outfit to a party, or at least the mini skirt as a fun way to spice up my wardrobe.