**Who Are You? Language, Gender, Culture PSA**

**DUE: 4/26 (BEFORE CLASS!)**

Among other issues, each of the articles in this module considers how we might respond to the ways that social environments and norms constrain us. About a boy finding that school culture does not value his preferred ways of behaving, David Brooks imagines,

In Kindergarten, he’d wonder why he just couldn’t be good. By junior high, he’d lose interest in trying and his grades would plummet. Then he’d rebel. If the official school culture was über-nurturing, he’d be über-crude. If it valued cooperation and sensitivity, he’d devote his mental energies to violent video games and aggressive music.

In his book’s prologue, “Prelude: The Barbershop,” Vershawn Ashanti Young describes his ambivalence about trying (and failing) to fit in as a “homeboy” and discusses the academic and economic success he eventually chose to pursue. Because of his choices, he reflects, “I didn’t have to fight to get out of the ghetto. I was kicked out.”

And finally, Audre Lorde suggests that people may try at all costs to accommodate socially imposed constraints, writing, “What are the tyrannies you swallow day by day and attempt to make your own, until you will sicken and die of them, still in silence?”

Lorde, however, also suggests an alternative to either suffering silently to fit in or rebelling—she encourages listeners and readers to speak out and use language and action to change the social conditions of our lives.

After you have considered Lorde’s question above and the alternative she subsequently proposes, write a public service announcement that proposes meaningful change in your community related to the issues raised in these readings.

Decide on an audience to address:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * your classmates | * administrators |
| * parents | * teachers |
| * younger (or older) students | * church |
| * coaches | * city, or community officials |

Your content, examples, and tone should reflect this decision.

Then compose an argument both describing a particular “tyrann[y]” or challenge and proposing changes that may improve the lives of those who endure it. Like Butler, Tannen, Brooks, Young, and Lorde, you may use your own or others’ personal experiences (including those of the five authors in this module), hypothetical situations, and reflections to make your case. Once you are finished, please ***share it with me***, via google drive BEFORE THE DUE DATE!

Helpful Movie Making Apps:

* imovie
* We Video
* Stop Motion Studio
* Video Mixer Pro ($2.99)

**Proposal: Due 4/19 or 4/20**

Group Members (3-5):

Topic:

How it relates to our module:

Audience: