

Mask Project Reflection

The mask project was all about relating sociology to your own life. First we learned about how sociology impacts our identity, and how it is like an endless cycle of laundry, it's almost impossible to get out of it. Next we read articles about how other people had been socialized into their identities, how they had broken the cycle, and what would happen if we didn't have society. After that we made each other's mask, refined our masks, and then proceeded to color and/or cut our masks to represent how we had been socialized into our identities. During our mask refinement days we as well worked on our mask essays. The sociology content that we learned included things like norms, sanctions, taboos, targets, agents, and the idea of looking-glass self. A norm is an expectation or rule that develops out of a group's values. If you break or follow the norms, a sanction is the reaction the society gives to you. If you break a SUPER STRICT norm that even the thought about violating it would be met with revulsion. This is called a taboo. We also learned about targets and agent groups. An agent group is the majority of society, and carries the advantages. In our culture an agent group would be a middle-class, Christian, straight, working male. A target group is the minority of society and is met with many disadvantages. In our culture an agent group would be a lower-class, gay atheist woman. Finally we learned about looking-glass self. Looking-glass self is the combination of how we think we appear to others and what others actually think of ourselves to create our identity.

The most important lesson that I learned about the world I am living in is to not always let people tell you who to be. Society is both a positive and negative influence but it is really important that you find the right balance in between. You don't want to push away society so much that you take on the characteristics of a feral child, yet you don't want to transform into a cookie cutter person. It is a really challenging balance to accomplish and most don't master it easily. Concluding, I learned that I haven't quite found the right balance between both, but at least now I know how to find myself.

In this project, I discovered that I am not as different as I thought I was. I went into this project thinking that I was a unique person and I do what I want without caring about the opinions of others. Once I finally gave in to the fact that I am more of an agent person rather than a target person, it really opened my eyes to see how I am a perfect example of looking-glass self. I came out of this project realizing that I am in between flying away from society and being a perfect cookie cutter agent. Realizing I was more similar than I was different to everyone made this an even more impactful project.

In my mask and my essay I was most proud of my innovativeness. When I messed up on my mask or something didn't turn out as perfect as I thought it would, I would find a way to repair it or turn it into something even better. For instance, when the Velcro on my mask was crooked and I decided to take it off and redo the strip, but I forgot that the acrylic color wasn't as strong as I thought. The Velcro came off just fine, and so did the paint. Instead of having a major breakdown (It was only a medium breakdown), I cut off the excess, crooked Velcro and covered up the torn paint, and before you know it I had a great looking mask again! I presented innovativeness in my essay by turning a little idea with little examples into a huge point.

In becoming a better projecteer I need to work on perspective. Next time I would like to plan out what needs to get done day by day so that I don't slack off some day and be in a panic the next. During the planning that I would do I would also prioritize it. Rather than doing whatever fits my mood that day, I would do whatever needs to be done in order to make the next steps easier. I can also definitely improve on focusing better. Instead of getting distracted by something that doesn't involve me, I should put my attention towards something that actually affects me. Following these steps for my next project would be very beneficial and help me not stress out at the end as much.