

## Mishandling of Sexual Assault Cases by American Higher Learning Institutes

Sexual assault, defined by The United States Department of Justice as any form of sexual contact that "occurs without the explicit consent of the recipient"<sup>1</sup> heavily targets young, college students, ordinarily females, and often results in minimal repercussions for the offender.<sup>2</sup> Sexual assault includes acts of "forced sexual intercourse, forcible sodomy, child molestation, incest, fondling, and attempted rape."<sup>3</sup> The heinous offense of rape also holds the title of "most common violent crime on American college campuses."<sup>4</sup> President Barack Obama has announced that "an estimated one in five women {have] been sexually assaulted during her college years--one in five." By extension, a sexual assault survey administered for the Justice Department discovered that 9% of undergraduate females communicated "experiencing attempted or completed sexual assault since entering college."<sup>6</sup> To further blatantly express the flagrancy of such an act, the peer reviewed article "How Should Colleges and Universities Respond to Peer Sexual Violence on Campus?", presented by Georgetown University's Law Department, illuminates the perilous likelihood that college females have an elevated risk of experiencing sexual assault than "women the same age but not in college."<sup>7</sup> Even though the law demands universities to supply information pertaining to crimes occurring on and around the parameters of their campus, they seldom expose such data.<sup>8</sup> The Clery Act obligates colleges and universities to disclose information about instances of sexual assault involving their students, however, they often conceal those figures because the incentives do not appear inherent.

Mentioned previously, the law demands schools to address sexual harassment and violence on campus, however, numerous occurrences get dissolved due to fear of a contaminated reputation. Bonnie S. Fisher, a criminal justice professor at the University of Cincinnati, has

---

<sup>1</sup> Tyler Kingkade, "Fewer Than One-Third Of Campus Sexual Assault Cases Result In Expulsion." The Huffington Post. September 29, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2015.

<[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/29/campus-sexual-assault\\_n\\_5888742.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=college&utm\\_content=buffer5862e&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer/](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/29/campus-sexual-assault_n_5888742.html?utm_hp_ref=college&utm_content=buffer5862e&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer/)>

<sup>2</sup> "Sexual Assault." Sexual Assault. Accessed January 12, 2015.

<<http://www.justice.gov/ovw/sexual-assault>>

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Rana Sampson, "Acquaintance Rape of College Students." Accessed January 11, 2015.

<<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/e03021472.pdf>>

<sup>5</sup> Glenn Kessler, "One in Five Women in College Sexually Assaulted: An Update on This Statistic." Washington Post. December 17, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2015.

<<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/wp/2014/12/17/one-in-five-women-in-college-sexually-assaulted-an-update/>>

<sup>6</sup> Christopher P. Krebs, Christine H. Lindquist, Tara D. Warner, Bonnie S. Fisher, and Sandra L. Martin. "The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study." Accessed January 15, 2015

<<https://www.ncirs.gov/pdffiles1/nii/grants/221153.pdf>>

<sup>7</sup> Nancy Chi Cantalupo, "How Should Colleges and Universities Respond to Peer Sexual Violence on Campus? What the Current Legal Environment Tells Us." January 1, 2010. Accessed January 16, 2015.

<<http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/>>

<sup>8</sup> "Summary of the Jeanne Clery Act." Summary of the Jeanne Clery Act. Accessed January 9, 2015.

<<http://clerycenter.org/summary-jeanne-clery-act>>

released a statement with her belief as to why college administrations do not properly care for sexual assault cases. Fisher exclaims that "it's just another issue on their desks that they're hoping doesn't cause a loss of students or bad media attention."<sup>9</sup> University administrators are notorious for tending to focus too largely on the reputation of their school and with this mentality, an "unreported case is a sexual assault that never actually happened."<sup>10</sup> Colleges simply do not want their prestigious names tainted by such a horrendous form of misconduct. Universities have typically tried to keep the lawsuits hidden.<sup>11</sup> Through this perspective, institutes of higher learning unhesitatingly dismiss cases against a sexual assault perpetrator, allowing the haunting essence of sexual assault to loiter on campus grounds, surging fear into the victims and prospective prey. Additionally, **New York democrat Kristen Gillibrand**, stated that "their incentive today is to make sure they are not known as a rape school. And the financial penalty is so low that they don't report the cases to the Department of Education."<sup>12</sup>

**Students have loudly conveyed their repugnance with colleges mishandling sexual assault cases. Columbia University generated immense uproar when a disciplinary panel dismissed a Columbia junior's accusation about rape.<sup>3</sup> Ms. Sulkowicz said that her hearing mirrored the results from previous sexual assault allegations against the same man by two other students.**

After the revolting turn of events, exasperation permeated throughout the campus leading twenty three students to file complaints to the government, explaining that "Columbia's handling of sexual misconduct violated federal law."<sup>14</sup>

The severity of unreported instances of sexual assault have heightened and caught the attention of the United States Department of Education. **Fifty-five colleges, including the University of California-Berkeley, Pennsylvania State University, and the Ivy League institute of Dartmouth College, violated a law under the appellation Title IX, subjecting these institutions to sexual assault investigations in May of 2014.<sup>15</sup>** As the year progressed, the amount of schools

<sup>9</sup> Richard PÉrez-peña, and Kate Taylor, "Fight Against Sexual Assaults Holds Colleges to Account." The New York Times. May 3, 2014. Accessed January 11, 2015.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/04/us/fight-against-sex-crimes-holds-colleges-to-account.html>>

<sup>10</sup> Caroline Kitchener, "When Helping Rape Victims Hurts a College's Reputation." The Atlantic. December 17, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2015.

<<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/12/when-helping-rape-victims-hurts-a-universitys-reputation/383820/>>

<sup>11</sup> Jennifer Steinhauer, and David Joachim, "55 Colleges Named in Federal Inquiry Into Handling of Sexual Assault Cases." The New York Times. May 1, 2014. Accessed January 11, 2015.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/02/us/politics/us-lists-colleges-under-inquiry-over-sex-assault-cases.html?r=0>>

<sup>12</sup> "Gillibrand Makes Campus Sexual Assaults Her next Cause." WNY News. May 25, 2014. Accessed January 14, 2015.

<<http://www.wqz.com/story/news/2014/05/25/gillibrand-makes-campus-sexual-assaults-her-next-cause/9568853/>>

<sup>13</sup> Richard PÉrez-peña, and Kate Taylor, "Fight Against Sexual Assaults Holds Colleges to Account." The New York Times. May 3, 2014. Accessed January 11, 2015.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/04/us/fight-against-sex-crimes-holds-colleges-to-account.html>>

<sup>14</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> Tyler Kingkade, "55 Colleges Face Sexual Assault Investigations." The Huffington Post. May 1, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2015.

<[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/01/college-sexual-assault\\_n\\_5247267.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/01/college-sexual-assault_n_5247267.html)>

sentenced to sexual assault scrutiny ascended to an astonishing number of eighty-six.<sup>16</sup> These eighty-six colleges and universities are under inspection by the Department of Education for failing to protect students and comply with the regulations of Title IX.<sup>17</sup>

Title IX aims to eradicate sex discrimination in education.<sup>11</sup> Title IX orders administrators to exercise their power to expunge sexual assailants from the campus in order to safeguard their students.<sup>19</sup> Title IX declares that no individual can, "on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination" in an educational program.<sup>20</sup> The U.S. Department of Education informed universities that this law commands them to protect students from sexual assault.<sup>21</sup> The Assistant Education Secretary for Civil Rights, Catherine E. Lhamon, asserted that the purpose for revealing the list of schools infringing the rulings of Title IX to the public was done in hopes of producing more "transparency to our enforcement work and to foster better public awareness of civil rights." Politico, a noteworthy news source, suggests that if there was an absence of Title IX, then universities would "be legally permitted to do nothing."<sup>22</sup> The issue does not lie solely on the law itself, but on the fact that very few schools carry out its rulings.

Catherine MacKinnon, a Yale graduate and feminist lawyer, argued for sexual assault to be deemed a form of discrimination. Based on Title IX, MacKinnon claimed that schools should be legally mandated to handle crimes of sexual assault because they "constituted forms of gender-based discrimination prohibited by federal law."<sup>23</sup>

The Clery Act also aims to create greater transparency regarding sexual assault cases in universities. The Clery Act entails federally financed colleges, which encompasses nearly all

---

<sup>16</sup> Alexandra Brodsky, and Elizabeth Deutsch. "No, We Can't Just Leave College Sexual Assault to the Police." POLITICO Magazine. December 3, 2014. Accessed January 11, 2015.  
<[http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/uva-sexual-assault-campus-113294\\_Page2.html#\\_VL2e8ivF-So](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/uva-sexual-assault-campus-113294_Page2.html#_VL2e8ivF-So)>

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> "Title IX - Gender Equity in Education." American Civil Liberties Union. Accessed January 13, 2015.  
<<https://www.aclu.org/title-ix-gender-equity-education>>

<sup>19</sup> "Dear Colleague Letter: Sexual Violence Background, Summary, and Fast Facts." April 4, 2011. Accessed January 17, 2015.

<<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-201104.pdf>>

<sup>20</sup> "U.S. Department of Education Releases List of Higher Education Institutions with Open Title IX Sexual Violence Investigations." U.S. Department of Education Releases List of Higher Education Institutions with Open Title IX Sexual Violence Investigations. May 1, 2014. Accessed January 18, 2015.  
<<http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-list-higher-education-institutions-open-title-ix>>

<sup>21</sup> *Promoting Effective Criminal Investigations of Campus Sex Crimes*. Washington D.C.: Office for Victims of Crime, 2012.

<sup>22</sup> Alexandra Brodsky, and Elizabeth Deutsch, "No, We Can't Just Leave College Sexual Assault to the Police." POLITICO Magazine. December 3, 2014. Accessed January 19, 2015.  
<[http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/uva-sexual-assault-campus-113294\\_Page2.html#\\_VL2e8ivF-So](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/uva-sexual-assault-campus-113294_Page2.html#_VL2e8ivF-So)>

<sup>23</sup> Alexandra Brodsky, and Elizabeth Deutsch, "No, We Can't Just Leave College Sexual Assault to the Police." POLITICO Magazine. December 3, 2014. Accessed January 19, 2015.  
<[http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/uva-sexual-assault-campus-113294.html#\\_VMHN20f-Sp](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/uva-sexual-assault-campus-113294.html#_VMHN20f-Sp)>

higher learning institutes, to disclose the number of cases of sexual assault reported on or in close proximity to their campuses each year.<sup>24</sup> This report, known as an Annual Security Report (ASR), must be released every year on the first of October.<sup>25</sup> The Annual Security Report must also be available to current students, prospective students and employees. The Clery Act bounds universities to keep the existence of such information out of secrecy.

The three Texas colleges under investigation for mismanaging sexual assault cases consists of Cisco College, The University of Texas-Pan American, and Southern Methodist University. The University of Texas-Pan American was sentenced to examination due to a charge from a former students that accused the university of "[failure] to promptly and equitably respond to her complaint that she was sexually assaulted."<sup>26</sup> The University of Texas-Pan American neglected to "properly and fairly investigate "serious crimes, which "constitutes a hostile and inequitable learning environment."<sup>27</sup>

Vexed by sexual assault's ability to slither into the mainstream and capture the attention of the nation, men's rights activists uttered foul. Paul Elam, the creator of *A Voice For Men*, an online men's rights organization<sup>28</sup>, says that "we have a problem with feminists...creating a kind of hysteria on campus."<sup>29</sup> Through Elam's eyes, college campuses abash male students as "potential rapists in endless anti-rape orientations and workshops. "However, the matter at hand is not solely to place blame on the perpetrator, but to provide a safe environment for learning. Everyone should be allowed to gain knowledge in a comfortable facility, with no angst of potential danger hampering their progress.

Ultimately, the failure to expose the incidents of sexual assault crimes by college administrators jeopardizes the safety of the students. Colleges should place the safety of their students high on the priority list. Colleges can allude that they have no incentives for reporting, so the Department of Education should retaliate by creating incentives. In order to provide a safer learning environment for their students, college administrations should be strictly required to obey the regulations of Title IX. Diminishing federal funding serves as the only punishment for infringing Title IX, but the government has never revoked this privilege, making it an empty threat. The U.S. Department of Education should place high financial penalties to serve as a wake up call to the administrators.

---

<sup>24</sup> Richard Pérez-peña, and Kate Taylor, "Fight Against Sexual Assaults Holds Colleges to Account." *The New York Times*. May 3, 2014. Accessed January 11, 2015.

<<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/04/us/fight-against-sex-crimes-holds-colleges-to-account.html>>

<sup>25</sup> "Summary of the Jeanne Clery Act." Summary of the Jeanne Clery Act.

<<http://clerycenter.org/summary-jeanne-clery-act>> Accessed January 9, 2015.

<sup>26</sup> Jennifer R. Lloyd, "UT-Pan Am Eyed for Handling of Sexual Abuse Complaints." *San Antonio Express-News*. May 1, 2014. Accessed January 20, 2015.

<<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/education/article/UT-Pan-Am-eyed-for-handling-of-sexual-abuse-5446222.php>>

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>28</sup> "Facts." *A Voice for Men*. April 2, 2010. Accessed January 15, 2015. Accessed January 21, 2015.

<<http://www.avoiceformen.com/activism/about/>>

<sup>29</sup> Emily Matchar, "Men's Rights" Activists Are Trying to Redefine the Meaning of Rape." *New Republic*. February 24, 2014. Accessed January 21, 2015.

<<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/116768/latest-target-mens-rights-movement-definition-rape>>

## Bibliography

- Brodsky, Alexandra, and Elizabeth Deutsch. "No, We Can't Just Leave College Sexual Assault to the Police." POLITICO Magazine. December 3, 2014. Accessed January 11, 2015.  
[http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/uva-sexual-assault-campus-113294\\_Page\\_2.html#.VL2e8ivF-So](http://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2014/12/uva-sexual-assault-campus-113294_Page_2.html#.VL2e8ivF-So).  
 This news articles highlights the ignorance of colleges regarding how to handle cases of sexual assault.
- Cantalupo, Nancy Chi. "How Should Colleges and Universities Respond to Peer Sexual Violence on Campus? What the Current Legal Environment Tells Us." January 1, 2010.  
<http://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/>.  
 Through this peer reviewed article, I learned that college women are at a greater risk of sexual assault than women the same age, but not in college.
- "Dear Colleague Letter: Sexual Violence Background, Summary, and Fast Facts." April 4, 2011. Accessed January 17, 2015.  
<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-201104.pdf>.  
 This website provided me with what Title IX requires of college administrators.
- "Facts." A Voice for Men. April 2, 2010. Accessed January 15, 2015. Accessed January 21, 2015.  
<http://www.avoicemen.com/activism/about/>.  
 By reading this website, I was able to understand what men's rights activists stand for.
- "Gillibrand Makes Campus Sexual Assaults Her next Cause." WNY News. May 25, 2014. Accessed January 14, 2015.  
<http://www.wgrz.com/story/news/2014/05/25/gillibrand-makes-campus-sexual-assaults-her-next-cause/9568853/>.  
 Ms. Gillibrands statements in this article explained why colleges do not report cases of sexual assault.
- Kessler, Glenn. "One in Five Women in College Sexually Assaulted: An Update on This Statistic." Washington Post. December 17, 2014.  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/wp/2014/12/17/one-in-five-women-in-college-sexually-assaulted-an-update/>.  
 This news article provided me with statistics concerning how many female college students experience sexual assault.
- Kingkade, Tyler. "Fewer Than One-Third Of Campus Sexual Assault Cases Result In Expulsion." The Huffington Post. September 29, 2014.  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/29/campus-sexual-assault\\_n\\_5888742.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=college&utm\\_content=buffer5862e&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/09/29/campus-sexual-assault_n_5888742.html?utm_hp_ref=college&utm_content=buffer5862e&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer).  
 Mr. Kingkade's article depicts the minimal repercussions an offender faces.



- Kingkade, Tyler. "55 Colleges Face Sexual Assault Investigations." The Huffington Post. May 1, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2015.  
[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/01/college-sexual-assault\\_n\\_5247267.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/05/01/college-sexual-assault_n_5247267.html)  
 Mr. Kingkade's article revealed the colleges subject to sexual assault and brought my attention to the three located in Texas.
- Kitchener, Caroline. "When Helping Rape Victims Hurts a College's Reputation." The Atlantic. December 17, 2014. Accessed January 10, 2015.  
<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2014/12/when-helping-rape-victims-hurts-a-universitys-reputation/383820/>  
 This news article revealed the lack of college intervention in sexual assault cases
- Krebs, Christopher P., Christine H. Lindquist, Tara D. Warner, Bonnie S. Fisher, and Sandra L. Martin. "The Campus Sexual Assault (CSA) Study."  
<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/221153.pdf>  
 This case study provided me with percentages of college women who have experienced rape.
- Llyod, Jennifer R. "UT-Pan Am Eyed for Handling of Sexual Abuse Complaints." San Antonio Express-News. May 1, 2014. Accessed January 20, 2015.  
<http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/education/article/UT-Pan-Am-eyed-for-handling-of-sexual-abuse-5446222.php>  
 This news article stated the reason why The University of Texas-Pan American was sentenced to investigation.
- Matchar, Emily. "'Men's Rights' Activists Are Trying to Redefine the Meaning of Rape." New Republic. February 24, 2014. Accessed January 21, 2015.  
<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/116768/latest-target-mens-rights-movement-definition-rape>  
 I utilized this article for my refutation in order to include an opposing perspective pertaining how colleges handle sexual assault.
- Pérez-peña, Richard, and Kate Taylor. "Fight Against Sexual Assaults Holds Colleges to Account." The New York Times. May 3, 2014.  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/04/us/fight-against-sex-crimes-holds-colleges-to-account.html>  
 This article provided me with information concerning Emma Sulkowicz's experience with reporting sexual assault.
- Promoting Effective Criminal Investigations of Campus Sex Crimes*. Washington D.C.: Office for Victims of Crime, 2012.  
 This book reiterated the role of the college in sexual assault cases.
- Sampson, Rana. "Acquaintance Rape of College Students."  
<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/pdf/e03021472.pdf>  
 This source informed me on the severity of rape in college campuses

"Sexual Assault." Sexual Assault. <http://www.justice.gov/ovw/sexual-assault>.  
This website provided me with a clear definition for sexual assault.

Steinhauer, Jennifer, and David Joachim. "55 Colleges Named in Federal Inquiry Into Handling of Sexual Assault Cases." The New York Times. May 1, 2014. Accessed January 11, 2015. [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/02/us/politics/us-lists-colleges-under-inquiry-over-sex-assault-cases.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/05/02/us/politics/us-lists-colleges-under-inquiry-over-sex-assault-cases.html?_r=0).  
I used this essay to corroborate the idea that colleges conceal cases of sexual assault.

"Summary of the Jeanne Clery Act." Summary of the Jeanne Clery Act. <http://clerycenter.org/summary-jeanne-clery-act>.  
This website clearly explained to me the requirements of the Clery Act.

"Title IX - Gender Equity in Education." American Civil Liberties Union. Accessed January 13, 2015. <https://www.aclu.org/title-ix-gender-equity-education>.  
This website explained to me what Title IX aims to accomplish.

"U.S. Department of Education Releases List of Higher Education Institutions with Open Title IX Sexual Violence Investigations." U.S. Department of Education Releases List of Higher Education Institutions with Open Title IX Sexual Violence Investigations. May 1, 2014. Accessed January 18, 2015. <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-releases-list-higher-education-institutions-open-title-ix>.  
This website provided me with a core purpose of Title IX.

## Reflection

After having performed a practice session of Task I earlier on in the year, I thought that my group and I had effectively managed to identify and eradicate most the mistakes we encountered in order to execute the legitimate Task I assignment with great efficiency and ease. I was quickly proven wrong. Initially my group and I decided to analyze the gravity of child labor in Southeast Asia, however, after we began discussing prospective careers, one of my team members interjected that she longed to work in a zoo. After her comment, we all came to realize our mutual fondness for animals and decided to investigate the array of animal holdings and reservations. The interest generated by this topic painted the illusion that we possessed an unyielding grasp on our research subject, but after engaging in a discussion pertaining teen pregnancies and school sanctioned daycares, we shifted our concern to adoption. The matter of adoption brought to the surface fervent agitation and sympathy from the four of us. To me, those emotions depicted the potential passion we could harness in order to deliver a captivating presentation. Somewhere during our preliminary research, we decided to lean in a different direction. This time we amended our subject matter to rape due to the relevance it presents to our demographic, regarding its imminent danger, and recent controversies pertaining this issue. **After rigidly establishing our topic, we decided to finally narrow down our question.** In an effort include an abundant amount of information while simultaneously answering a focused question, we zoomed out a bit and decided to focus on sexual assault, which still encompasses the heinous offense of rape. We refined our topic and tapered our question down to emphasize the management of rape reports on American higher learning institutes, a process engulfed in improper execution and aggravating corruption. We divided up our topic into four essential facets including the federally obligated college reports on sexual assault, the underreporting of sexual assault, the false sexual assault reports, and the effective management of sexual assault cases

After finalizing our individual perspectives and deciding on the lenses, we were able to finally begin conducting our preliminary research effectively. I chose to examine the reasoning behind why some colleges failed to report crimes of sexual assault. I took keen interest in my perspective. **Due to our subject matter concerning colleges, added by the realization that we have reached a point in our high school careers where college is gradually inching closer to reality, I recognized the importance of educating oneself of the social dangers that lurk around university grounds.**

In order to fabricate a pragmatic solution that equally encompassed all of our perspectives, we decided to all use the same lenses - social and legal. My social lens regarded the reputation of the colleges. Through my research, I became increasingly appalled when I discovered the torrent amount of universities placing the safety of their students on the back burner, for the sake of retaining their school's prestigious facade. As my research progressed, I came to realize how oblivious I was to the severe magnitude of a crime that plagues numerous universities.

**The bulk of my legal lens concerned the Clery Act and Title IX. The Clery Act told me that colleges were lawfully required to disclose any crimes,** including sexual, that occur on or



around the proximity of their campus. Title IX also sought to create greater transparency, however, like the Clery Act, its intentions often get disregarded.

Following the completion of our individual essays, we immediately began collaborating on creating a coherent team essay and presentation. Since I enjoy creating visual content, I took the lead in the production of our presentation, however I did still contribute to the writing of our team paper. For me, the presentation was more of a fun project rather than a strenuous assignment. I believe that the multimedia presentation aspect of Task I has allowed me to utilize my technical and artistic repertoire. Due to my enjoyment in creating the presentation, I was able to finish it efficiently, and provide assistance to my teammates who struggled to assemble an immaculate essay that pleased their high standard of quality. The reality that we were in the midst of executing our authentic AP test never fled our minds so we paid meticulous attention to all the aspects of Task I.

In order to prepare for the presentation we created scripts to ensure that we would not exclude any vital information. Due to my background in acting, I had an easier time memorizing my lines than my team members did. My confidence in my memory consequently equated to less stress. On the day of the presentation we utilized our lunch time to prepare by running through our lines one final time.

While we were presenting, the nerves struck me and I misspoke a few of my lines, however, besides the minute mistakes, I think I did well. I think the enthusiasm we possessed towards our topic shone through during our presentation, although I am aware that there had been instances where our fire slightly faded. Overall, I would say that my group and I performed rather well, considering the angst we experienced during our final rehearsal.

While at times our inefficiency and indecisiveness impeded our progress, our will to succeed overpowered those roadblocks. Where we lacked in efficiency, we certainly made up for in zeal. One could always count on the other for assistance, whether it concerned essay revisions or searching for sources. Working with a group of people can be a laborious task, however, I was fortunate enough to be member of a group composed of diligent young ladies.