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RJ Final Assignment Reflection
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For the final assignment I kind of chose a mix of both the second and third options, a video and a creative presentation. Upon reviewing the various units we covered this semester, a set of readings and materials I found particularly interesting were the ones about black maternal mortality. Initially I went and watched a lot of different interviews with healthcare providers, black mothers, and midwives to gather more information. I decided I wanted to make a video that an RJ organization could hypothetically use to educate people about maternal mortality disparities while also serving as a call to action. Maybe a video that they could have on their website or that they could use to front a campaign against black maternal mortality. I took clips from the different videos I watched and put them together in a way that I thought made sense. I kept the audio attached to some of them, but other audio I took from interviews and podcasts and layered that over videos. A big theme throughout the semester was the importance and power of personal narratives and listening to Shalon Irving's story in the first week of April was a testament to this. Rather than just including facts and statistics, I wanted the video to have a sort of narrative component which I think makes it more emotionally accessible and effective. I chose audio clips that I thought were both informative but also emotive.

In thinking about what key points I wanted the video to communicate, the disparity between white and black mothers was my top priority but I also felt it was important to somehow demonstrate that this problem transcends class. To reflect this, I

used clips from the news and interviews with Serena Williams. On this same point, I also wanted the video to touch on the cultural stereotypes and biological fallacies at the root of the medical mistreatment of black women. Specifically, how the assumption that they have a greater tolerance for pain connects to maternal mortality. This is what compelled me to use the clips of Dorothy Roberts. I felt it important to show the intersection between biology, race, and culture so that the video grants the viewer with a certain degree of knowledge and context. I ended the video with audio that I thought illustrated not only the need for the RJ movement but the ways RJ aims to cater to the needs of black communities in a wide variety of ways. Although I the pro choice movement was not explicitly mentioned in my video, I tried to make it clear through the ending that reproductive justice is not limited to access to abortion but that the issues of maternal mortality and healthcare disparities are important in the larger framework of reproductive freedom.