

Shirlene Wang  
Prof. Shin  
ENG 277  
17 April 2015

### Creative Project Reflection

I found the experience of creating a podcast to be incredibly rewarding. In assembling this podcast, I recognize its superior ability to culminate all the topics and issues discussed in this class. This medium being more creative than writing a research paper about one of the texts we read better helped me self-reflect and engage. I have always been curious about opinions regarding issues of identity with which I personally identify. I am Asian American; that fact is something I can never change. When people see me, they automatically label me as Asian, no matter what I may do to subvert the stereotypes in their minds. Additionally, the difficulties I had in finding non-Asians to interview led me to my own realization that I strongly self-segregate as well.

While interviewing students for this podcast, I found the varying levels of interest and lengths of answers to be the most interesting aspect. One comment that specifically stood out to me was when my interviewee, Rani, commented on his understanding of the separation between whiteness and American-ness, a sentiment that many others echoed as well. I regret not asking my subjects more questions directly related to topics discussed in class such as “yellow peril” or “model minority.” Instead, I erroneously assumed these issues would naturally arise.

The focus for my creative project was to create a narrative. Because I have never made a podcast before taking on this project, the experience of thinking of interview questions, finding people to interview, and editing the audio to form a cohesive podcast that communicated my intentions was both more challenging and more informative than I initially expected. I discovered through the interviews that many people blamed “campus culture” for issues such as the perception that Asian Americans are apathetic or that they “self-segregate.” Additionally, the issues of “burden of representation” came up when discussing the multicultural organizations. I initially held a negative opinion about those multicultural organizations; however, viewing them through the lens of the burden of representation, I better understand the difficulties in programming events that must represent a minority culture but also appeal to the majority of students on campus.

Overall, I am satisfied with my decision to create this podcast. In my opinion, podcast is a new medium that can have a very tangible impact, as it is an easy way to spread distinct opinions. I feel the strength of my project was in having multiple episodes that dealt with a broad range of topics. However, with more time, I would like to strengthen the organization of the interviews within each episode. The audio quality could also have been more consistent. Despite these areas of weakness, I believe that content is more important than medium. Instead of merely thinking about these issues on my own, I am actively engaging in them by reaching out to the local community. From my interviews, it became clear to me that people are aware and have opinions about being Asian American on campus. Hopefully through this podcast, I can encourage more people to not only engaged in these issues but also be directly involved in making this campus feel more inclusive.