Original Work Set-Up and Completion Summary

Date/s: Primarily my Original Work took place through the last half of December and was finished during the first few days of January.

Time/s: I worked for over 12 hours over the course of about 2 weeks, researching a few hours at a time every day through the end of December into January.

Materials: I completed this project primarily through online research, with a variety of studies and papers about domestic violence and how it has impacted societies across the world. Other than that, I also created multiple ads and infographics using the online platform Canva to design them.

Objective/Purpose: Over my Original Work, I wanted to feel more connected to everything I had been researching by brainstorming possible solutions to some of the most serious and contentious problems of today. I wanted to not only learn more about these topics, but consider how and why this issues occur before coming up with ideas on potential fixes.

Description of Process: To develop my Original Work, I began with extensive research on domestic violence. I searched on a variety of aspects, from shocking statistics to cultural reasons why, and best proven solutions. From there I created an infographic with what I thought were the most interesting facts to include on my display board and as a part of my product. Then I researched countries with the worst history of domestic abuse and decided to use Rwanda as an example in my product, because of its previous history with gender equality as a result of the Rwandan Genocide. To finish, I developed what I believe are the necessary aspects to solve the severity of domestic violence across the world with three primary pillars: education, legislation, and awareness, and with the awareness step I created some mock ads for how the message of speaking out against domestic violence could be spread through social media. Altogether, this became my final product through thorough research.

Utilization of Higher-Level Thinking Skills: I used many higher-level thinking skills through my Original Work project. At first, I had to evaluate and analyze the research I was doing. I identified and examined patterns in domestic violence statistics around the world and used this information to build conclusions on how to find possible solutions. This is where the bulk of the higher-level thinking occurred: synthesis. I drew from multiple sources to create an all-encompassing solution using old information and studies to create new and updated solutions. For example, a campaign through social

media takes from the benefits of awareness and applies it to modern society and how best messages are conveyed across the masses these days. These three methods of evaluating, analyzing, and synthesizing all came together to build my Original Work.

Results: My final result was a three-step or three-pillar approach to making domestic violence more public and frequently reported, and to eradicate it altogether in a society, for me, Rwanda. My three main solutions were to educate the public, starting from a young age, to take away the lack of knowledge about domestic abuse. Then, the second part of the plan was through legislation, making domestic violence definitively illegal in the face of the law, and the final part was to bring awareness to the prevalence of domestic violence through a social media campaign. In theory, all three would come together to work in tandem to increase how frequently domestic violence is reported and to drastically reduce occurrences as a whole.

Conclusions/Interpretations: Overall, I'm shocked at how persistent domestic violence is. Even in pretty gender equal countries, that are touted for their progression, still have rampant domestic violence as a result of centuries of ingrained gender roles and the prevalence of the patriarchy. That being said, I am optimistic about the trend of domestic violence; it seems that based on statistics, things are getting better, and hopefully through the three "pillars" that I express in the project, if they could begin to be implemented around the world, more positive change will occur.

Application/Meaning: From here I will use everything I have learned in this project to guide me forward on creating actual change in my community. As much as I've enjoyed learning the statistics and thinking of theoretical plans to create progress, I would really like to find a way to make my ideas more of a reality in the coming months. I think my plan could be implemented on both a large and small scale, and now I just need to find a way to make concrete steps to actually achieve that within a reasonable scale.