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Honors 231B
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Artwork:



Artist Statement

I chose to do a visual art digital collage for my second reflection. The overall layout references the fence metaphor that guest speaker Victor Rodriguez discussed. He brought up the metaphor that many of us were familiar with: if people are watching a baseball game and a fence is in the way, equality is giving each person one block to stand on while equity would be giving the shorter people more blocks to everyone would be able to see. He emphasized that the fence is necessary to begin with and the true solution is to remove it. In my collage, the fence separates people and represents the barriers to reproductive justice. This fence and the systems it represents are old and dilapidated, being products of colonialism that are prevalent in our society and target marginalized communities.

Behind the fence, I decided to represent groups of people that are denied reproductive justice. I have photos of a pregnant incarcerated woman, along with an incarcerated recent mother. I also have a few images representing the inhumane treatment of those in ICE detention centers, especially during the pandemic. As a background, I have the illustrations from one of the class's readings, "Abolition is Not a One Time Event: Prison Doulas as Catalysts." These depict the meager supplies that prisons provide during birth, how doulas must

adapt to make labor as comfortable as possible, and the floor plans detailing the cruel separation of mother and child. The images behind the fence are tinted brown and slightly transparent, highlighting how society disregards those people and their stories are untold.

In front of the fence, I added the people fighting for a better future. There are images of people protesting forced sterilization, recognizing the mistreatment of trans migrants, and demanding the return of detained loved ones. I also included anti-forced sterilization artwork, along with an image of Kelli Dillon, a woman who was forcibly sterilized in a prison, testifying in court. I decided to keep these images in full color, demonstrating the hope and resilience of those impacted by and fighting for these causes.

I added the scales in the background as a nod to my personal experiences and perspective, which have colored the way I view our class readings, discussions, lessons, and guest speaker talks. In my past bioethics classes, much of the discussion focused on the ethics behind certain ideas and actions; is it ethical or moral to offer a certain procedure or research a specific topic? I came in with this mindset of wanting to determine if things are just, but instead, I have learned a lot about our current society and how many people are being terribly and inhumanely mistreated. The question is not if something is right or wrong, as the scales suggest. So much is clearly wrong and unjust, and now my focus has shifted to how to give people the rights they deserve. The scales in the background represent my past experiences and expectations, but now the scales are heavily weighed down in one direction; I see clearly the suffering and I want to learn and do what I can to balance things again.

The general tone of this art piece is messy and chaotic. Transparent layers overlap, images spill over onto one another, and some text is illegible. To me this represents the interconnectedness of all of these issues, along with the idea that these issues themselves are messy. There is no clear-cut path to justice and even as we bring attention to these problems and look for solutions, progress needs to be combined effort from many different people.