

REFLECTION

ELLA MACK: ACCESS TO FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

I had a really great time doing this project. This class has been really helpful to my major and has not just been another general education class for me. I have been doing things relevant to my life and topics that I am really passionate about. I had a great time exploring topics for this presentation. I had a few ideas for this but struggled a little bit because I knew there had to be a common problem. After seeing the Bustle NFSWomen series documentary on homeless women I knew I had to work with that.

When starting the project, I figured I would do a website. I make a few websites weekly but I don't always get to incorporate features that I want because people are paying me to give them what they want. Being able to do a website has helped me by allowing this project to be featured on my online portfolio as well. After creating this website, I decided to post my website to my Facebook, it reads, "I just made all of my male classmates super uncomfortable with this presentation on incarcerated women and homeless women's access to feminine hygiene products. The uncomfortable faces just proved my point on how if we don't destigmatize period talk, we can't fix this problem. Check it out.<http://endlessdesign.com/hygiene/>." I had overwhelming support online to the site with very supportive comments including, "Guys are wusses. Seriously. They all seem to think they are tough and then you mention the word tampon or period and watch the blood drain from their faces and they start stuttering. I vow to make my two sons capable of handling a basic discussion about periods without fainting or having to leave the room. They will also be able to buy pads or tampons for the females in their lives without blushing." by a former teacher and "Hey, we had a Kid of the Week on a few weeks ago who was addressing this cause...very powerful!
<http://wgnradio.com/2016/07/05/kid-of-the-week-lily-alter/>" from Andrea Darlas, WGN News. In total, I had forty-one likes, I had no idea what an impact I would make.

Gathering content was pretty difficult at first. So many people don't know that this is an issue so there are not many groups advocating for it. The taboo nature of this topic was apparent by my male classmate's reaction to what I was talking about. I am going to work to expand this project and inform more people. I'd like to start my own group to distribute these products to both groups of women.