



Western Washington University  
Western CEDAR

---

WWU Honors College Senior Projects

WWU Graduate and Undergraduate Scholarship

---

Summer 2022

## VULNERABILITY

Tee Ing

*Western Washington University*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://cedar.wwu.edu/wwu\\_honors](https://cedar.wwu.edu/wwu_honors)



Part of the [Interdisciplinary Arts and Media Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Ing, Tee, "VULNERABILITY" (2022). *WWU Honors College Senior Projects*. 620.  
[https://cedar.wwu.edu/wwu\\_honors/620](https://cedar.wwu.edu/wwu_honors/620)

This Project is brought to you for free and open access by the WWU Graduate and Undergraduate Scholarship at Western CEDAR. It has been accepted for inclusion in WWU Honors College Senior Projects by an authorized administrator of Western CEDAR. For more information, please contact [westerncedar@wwu.edu](mailto:westerncedar@wwu.edu).

# VULNERABILITY

An Honors Senior Capstone Project

By Tee Ing

Advised by Dr. Mary Erickson

Western Washington University

## **Abstract and Statement**

It is about trying to compile everything I have learned out of class the last four years by dissecting and categorizing and recategorizing everything into a new form: zines. Focusing on one digital-physical medium for six months and with the mindset of archival art, I quickly realized that it is about the process and the thought behind the selection and reapplication of the old into the new.

It is about growth and progress. In this way, the medium reflects the theme, the form reflects the meaning. Leaving this chapter of my life with much more than just postmodernist theory and organic chemistry, I have a new appreciation for the process and connection. This project is dedicated to my friends and our conversations. In other words, slowing down and thinking about where I am and how far I have come is immeasurably important.

The reclamation and renewal of the traditional college experience is reflected throughout each zine. My biggest feelings through each broken up chapter bled through the layering of print. The stars of the show are screenshots of my note's app, full of unfinished songs, poems, thoughts, and mistakes. In the background, you will see scans of my personal sketchbooks. Interweaved are pieces of my drawings and ones left behind by my closest friends. This art is ours. These are pieces of our history, immortalized.

This is VULNERABILITY.

## The Zines

### Volume 1: Motionless

motionless

and here i lay  
on the ground  
in fear the rain might stop

Figuring out where you fit into your unfamiliar environment is a goal that I assume most new college students prioritize. The first spread you will encounter my first weird uber driver experience, and in the second, a piece of critique from my English 101 professor that I have always read whenever I felt self-conscious about my work. This is followed by a couple of songs I had forgotten the tune of immediately after writing them down. Some of the art in the background may be recognizable to a few. My first year was filled with many firsts, and many emotions that I coped with by writing them down in various convoluted ways. My first year I learned how to write.

### Volume 2: To be an Artist

To be an artist is to take the risk. It is to take the risk of going unnoticed, or gaining attention, becoming political. It means to wander out so far from *home* that one has to fight to learn your own identity, *again*. "The Moral Responsibility of the Artist" is to create pieces that are not only for yourself but for the act of creating in and of itself— for it to manifest its own objectives— whether the artist intends for it to happen or not. What I am exploring is not the legality of such art, of graffiti, but instead the use of graffiti as a form of protesting institutions and in turn oppression. Sometimes not even the writer themselves know the politics of aerosol art, tags, or scribes. It is just what graffiti and *graff culture* cultivates, art that is inherently political. Art is inherently political.

This is a small piece of a larger first year honors project, it was to accompany a video on my relationship with graffiti that I made for the class and continues to the next page of the zine. These themes are still relevant to my beliefs. The second page through the rest of this volume are moments where I was exploring this newfound freedom through poems and songwriting, accompanied by little doodles at the park. My second year I learned what it means to be an artist.

### Volume 3: Untitled

Filling my biggest completed sketchbook with stickers on the front and back covers in 2020, this is when COVID hit, and things began to get messy. I was losing my sense of self at the same time as losing some connections I so fervently fought for. I remember creating a drinking game with some friends from high school for a religious studies Zoom lecture. I remember writing something down in Chinese I cannot read anymore and writing notes on top of older notes. I was desperately trying to figure out where I fit in all over again, and I was successful at the end, coming back to the unfinished songs and song ideas in the notes app. My third year I learned my identity.

### Volume 4: Wash my Clothes

#### **wash my clothes in acid**

take pictures with my hair covering my face

A brief note, “wash my clothes in acid” was a dream that I had and one I absolutely cannot elaborate on, only because I totally forgot why I wrote this and what it was supposed to be about. I was focused on writing everything down by the end of 2021 and finishing pieces once the thought started. I had just the right number of commitments, and a good routine. This zine is full of complete thoughts and memories. My fourth year I learned about spherical harmonics, and how to be comfortable being uncomfortable.

### Volume 5: Grocery

#### **grocery**

- sriracha
- melatonin
- hand soap
- 

This one is just full of grocery lists. This is an allegory for remembering. Remembering to get certain things at Fred Meyer is the same thing in my brain as remembering to write down my dreams or do my homework. At the same time grocery lists specifically help me to remember my culture. Cooking ethnic foods that remind me of home is a big part of my day to day now, and I enjoy sharing these with my friends. Organizing this last zine nonlinearly allows room for growth, and you can see all the ways I tried to spell grocery.

Now, there is no more room for self-consciousness. Today, I learned VULNERABILITY.

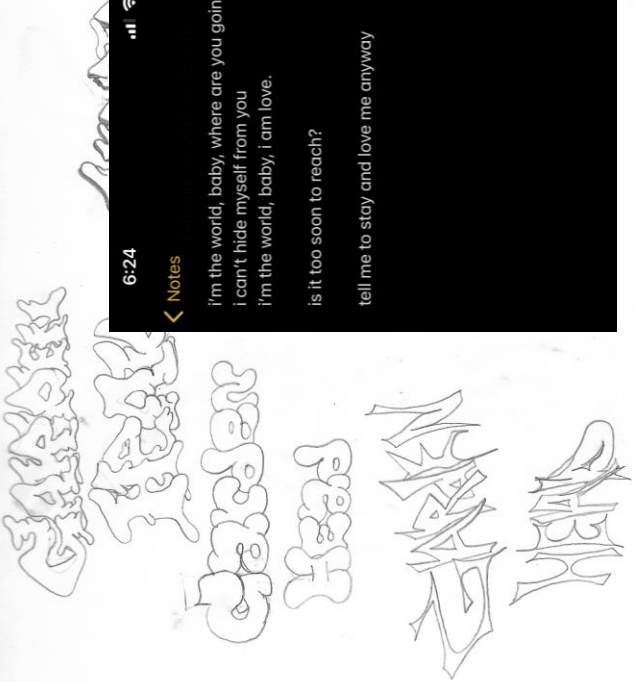
motionless  
and here i lay  
on the ground  
in fear the rain might stop



6:27  
< Notes  
November 3, 2018 at 11:16 AM  
uber driver: what kind of car you drive? do you have a car?  
me: yeah i drive a honda crv  
uber driver: are you chinese? chinese people like honda, honda strong car. like mercedes germans are strong too.  
me: yes ok

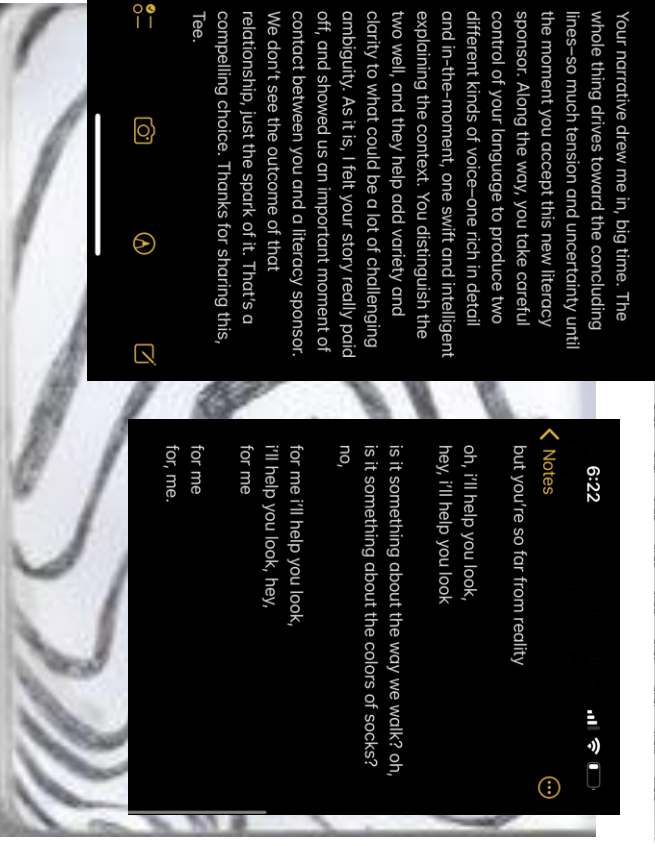


6:24  
< Notes  
i'm the world, baby, where are you going?  
i can't hide myself from you  
i'm the world, baby, i am love.  
is it too soon to reach?  
tell me to stay and love me anyway



Your narrative drew me in, big time. The whole thing drives toward the concluding lines—so much tension and uncertainty until the moment you accept this new literacy sponsor. Along the way, you take careful control of your language to produce two different kinds of voice—one rich in detail and in-the-moment, one swift and intelligent explaining the context. You distinguish the two well, and they help add variety and clarity to what could be a lot of challenging ambiguity. As it is, I felt your story really paid off, and showed us an important moment of contact between you and a literacy sponsor. We don't see the outcome of that relationship, just the spark of it. That's a compelling choice. Thanks for sharing this, Tee.

6:22  
< Notes  
but you're so far from reality  
oh, i'll help you look,  
hey, i'll help you look  
is it something about the way we walk? oh, is it something about the colors of socks?  
no,  
for me i'll help you look,  
i'll help you look, hey,  
for me  
for me  
for, me.



i remember in elementary school i had really good control over my hands, the teacher made me cut out laminated things all the time. i liked card making and writing names in cool fonts so when my classmates found out, they asked me to write their names on the tops of their assignments, there were bubble letters and barcode letters and messy, pointy cursive. obviously, i complied, liking the attention and then never really thought much about it until now, connecting it with what i currently know about graffiti—i guess that's why i'm so interested, me, having more privilege to be able to be less exposed to "vandalism" when i was young, compared to now, going full circle and recognizing that.



6:21

< Notes

i put you in a goblin hotel  
i like the way that you think  
i wrapped you in my arms  
and sang you to sleep

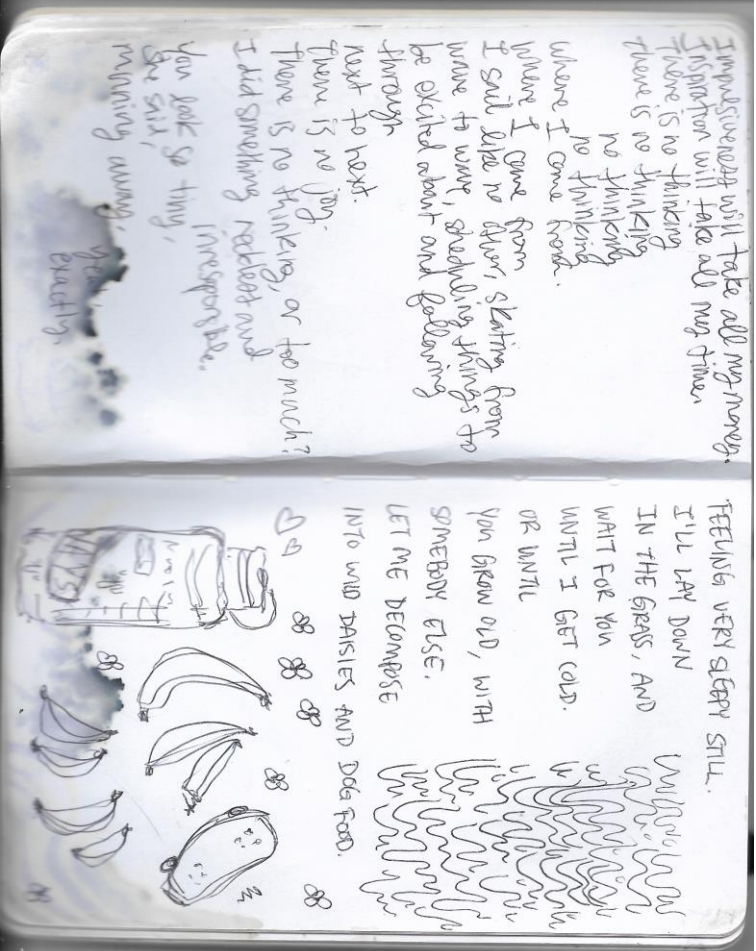
on the sheep that i buy are just so cheap  
the birds that i want are far far out of reach.

i feel like pretend  
i feel like i'm lost  
in google  
in looking up  
in beaten down  
it's why i can't believe i have friends like these  
i'm afraid they'll leave me  
once they have each other  
i want to be integral  
i want to be important

6:20

< Notes

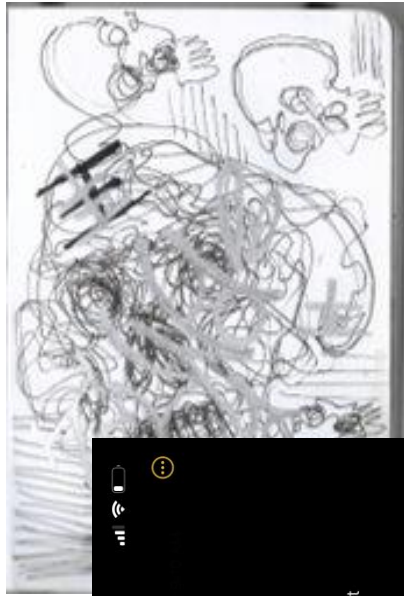
To be an artist is to take the risk. It is to take the risk of going unnoticed, or gaining attention, becoming political. It means to wander out so far from home that one has to fight to learn your own identity, *again*. "The Moral Responsibility of the Artist" is to create pieces that are not only for yourself but for the act of creating in and of itself—for it to manifest its own objectives—whether the artist intends for it to happen or not. What i am exploring is not the legality of such art, of graffiti, but instead the use of graffiti as a form of protesting institutions and in turn oppression. Sometimes not even the writer themselves know the politics of aerosol art, tags, or scribes. It is just what graffiti and *graff culture* cultivates, art that is inherently political. Art is inherently political.



6:18

< Notes

a line in a song  
we're more than friends  
but less than lovers  
open your eyes sweetheart  
i wanna watch you fall apart  
these are all good things  
but aren't you tired?



i love to induce eching in my soul by thinking about the squids no ones ever seen before, at the bottom of the ocean my hearts full of holes

6:15  
Notes  
June 20, 2020 at 1:55 PM

雪花飘飘 北风呼啸

6:15  
Notes  
October 2, 2020 at 11:52 AM

religious studies drinking game

- every time you think of a good point but don't speak up because it would interrupt the professor
- someone brings up their specific religious upbringing
- every time someone says:
  - (1) scientific naturalism
  - (2) historical materialism
  - (3) post-colonialism
  - (4) interpretive sociology
- every time "religion" "faith" "belief" is said
- someone forgets to unmutte when trying to talk

James Baldwin DOCUMENTARY-STYLE DOCUMENTARY  
Big picture:

OH, THE TRAGEDY OF TIME,  
DO YOU KNOW WHY I TRICKS YOU  
IN YOUR FEELINGS (also you have no way to go on  
DON'T LET THE EDGE OF ONE BUT DO YOU KNOW  
THEN FOOL YOU FROM? THE STREETS ARE OURS?  
WHAT YOU SEE SETS YOU ARET  
AND THE PEOPLE'S NOTHING HERE  
TO BLIND YOU PROBABLY IS EFFECTIVE?  
IT'S NO WAY MARCHISM  
FOR LIFE TO STAY THROUGH AND THROUGH  
DO YOU KNOW THAT TONIGHT  
THE STREETS ARE OURS?  
TONIGHT THE STREETS ARE OURS  
THESE LIGHTS IN OUR HEARTS  
ARE OURS  
THESE LIGHTS IN  
OUR HEARTS  
THEY TELL NO  
IN THEIR SOULS  
AND THEY MAKE OUR  
LIBS  
occupy public space  
dominate having individual  
expression  
In our situation, because much of  
the regulations in our society  
are all means being government  
missaged speak out to what is  
currently happening.

THESE LIGHTS IN  
OUR HEARTS  
THEY TELL NO  
IN THEIR SOULS  
AND THEY MAKE OUR  
LIBS  
occupy public space  
dominate having individual  
expression  
In our situation, because much of  
the regulations in our society  
are all means being government  
missaged speak out to what is  
currently happening.

AND OUR GLOBS  
FROM OUR VISION  
BLIND US  
AND THEY MAKE OUR  
LIBS  
occupy public space  
dominate having individual  
expression  
In our situation, because much of  
the regulations in our society  
are all means being government  
missaged speak out to what is  
currently happening.

6:16  
Notes  
May 5, 2020 at 1:14 AM

i know if you're there right beside me trying  
to fall asleep i try not to think as loud so not  
to wake you, it's easier then for me to fall  
asleep too. loud thoughts keep me up

6:16  
Notes  
May 5, 2020 at 5:56 PM

SONGS TO WRITE

what good is strength if i  
can't carry you

the moral of the story  
is you don't need to worry

- ive been stabbed and lived up and  
down the west coast
- favorite meal of the day
- flowers nature anticapitalism farming  
mushrooms
- walking into an empty field full of green  
long grass and trees and sunlight and  
fluffy clouds
- books writing orchids fog



1:15  
Notes  
October 13, 2021 at 2:29 AM

**look at me with someone else's face**

i see you looking at me with someone else's face  
but your mannerisms are the same  
and how you're always late.

i almost sold our inside joke,  
performed it, rather  
but i didn't wanna ruin the moment  
and make my heart sadder

to learn that  
you didn't know it in the first place  
because you're looking at me with  
someone else's face.

of how much you sweat  
of how much you sweat  
of how much you sweat  
of how much you sweat

disappointment  
this small reward is  
of how much you hate me  
of how much you hate me

MR HUNGER  
IN WAYS THAT SATISFY  
MAX I LOVE

6:13  
Notes  
November 11, 2021 at 6:11 PM

**chess**

In a new light  
once they are an opponent,  
an enemy,  
from lovers to strangers

1:16  
Notes  
March 1, 2021 at 1:59 AM

**wash my clothes in acid**  
take pictures with my hair covering my face

I built my bed out of these to  
I built my bed, out of these  
mmm the same one I been  
for all these years.  
are we meant to be?  
I fit so perfectly,  
in your sheets,  
yet I can't sleep.

there is nothing to fix here  
sobbing, silent fear  
no we're not the same  
and I don't know who to

You're breaking my heart,  
with a smile  
mind numb comforting pain, on dial.

Are we meant to be?  
I fit so perfectly  
in your sheets,  
yet I can't sleep.

there is nothing to fix here  
love me I'm still here  
no we're not the same  
and I don't know who to blame

Are we meant to be?  
I fit so perfectly,  
in your sheets,  
yet I can't sleep. I can't sleep.

Video games.  
(cartoon).  
there are  
video games on  
the floor but  
not on the carpet.  
I like to think  
that they  
play themselves  
but they never  
do - not for me  
at least.  
but the blond  
haired blue-  
eyed fox of  
my life picks  
them up and  
up off the  
ground,  
just for me,  
just for me to watch  
and  
just for me to be happy.

Rats.  
totally, uncontrollably  
here  
and going to be  
totally and  
uncontrollably away  
for a long time.

I believe sisyphus  
is happy so  
that I can  
be here and  
there  
totally and  
uncontrollably  
at the same  
time.  
no wonder I'm  
hungry!

6:12  
Notes  
May 25, 2022 at 9:41 PM

**the probability of an electron found in any location around a nucleus follows the same model as the cosmic background radiation anisotropy, the probability for any point in the universe being above or below 3 K.**

spherical harmonics

1:16  
Notes  
February 9, 2021 at 1:44 AM

**the word has kinda watered down for me, but has it for you?**

love  
i love you  
do you love me?



this will be non-linear,  
this will be about my friends, and  
this will be to share.

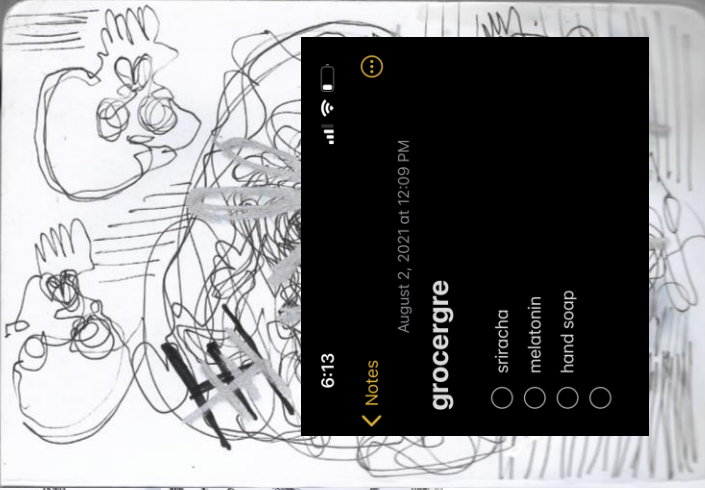
there will be words  
there will be poems and  
there will be SKILLS!

I think that the summer  
will be a good summer  
will be self discovery  
will be self reflection.

I think that I will grow  
I think that I will do things.

I hope that I will be happy  
I hope that I will be supported  
I hope that I will be supported  
I hope that I will be supported.

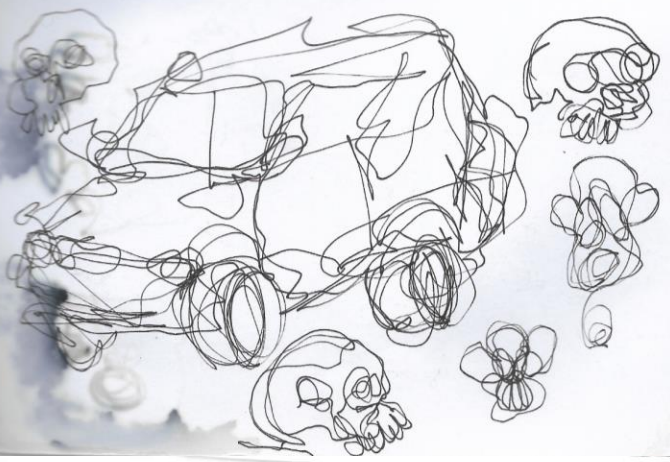
I hope that I will be supported  
I hope that I will be supported  
I hope that I will be supported.



6:13 Notes August 2, 2021 at 12:09 PM

**grocery**

- siriracha
- melatonin
- hand soap



6:11 Notes July 28, 2022 at 12:21 PM

**grocery**

beef chow fun

- shao xing wine
- white pepper
- oyster sauce
- sesame oil
- onion
- garlic
- grunion
- ginger
- bean sprout
- wide rice noodle
- flank steak?



6:10 Notes January 8, 2020 at 10:10 AM

**gocery**

- bread
- meat for curry (beef?)
- carrot
- sandwich materials

things to do

- photoshop sister
- honey green tea from miller market
- pay tuition lab fee
- bring lab safety to lab
- work on tickets
- pretend
- call xfinity
- listen to mac miller's come back to earth because it reminds you of being super high in higgsinon, neither a

6:11 Notes November 17, 2019 at 6:43 PM

**grocery**

- probolone
- singies deluxe
- ootmilk
- sangria
- boot lacest?
- pomelo
- whiskey
- helna grogry bog
- kinchi
- sausage or beef
- crunch?
- celery

I WANT TO  
COVER MY BODY  
WITH TATTOOS.  
I'LL SHOW THEM ALL  
TO MY MAN

WHEN  
I TAKE  
TWENTY ONE

ONE HUNDRED  
AND NINE  
AND I

THAT  
WILL  
MAYBE  
NOT

SO THAT  
I CAN  
BE  
A  
PART  
OF  
THE  
ART

I can't control how other people feel and