

Diversity Components Addressed: RECOGNITION, VIGILANCE, CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PEDAGOGY AND CURRICULUM, INCLUSIVENESS, ADVOCACY

Topic: Gender Variants, Construction of Gender, Alternative Representations of Data

Strategy: Unit lesson on teaching about gender, culture, and ethnographic research

Unit: Educational Ethnography in Higher Education, 3 hours, face-to-face

Background: Greeley was the backdrop for a brutal murder of a woman who was transgender. This case became the first transgender hate crime in the United States. At the time a student in SRM 685 Educational Ethnography was conducting research that ultimately involved the murder case/trial. The three-hour lesson/experience is a result of this situation.

Objectives:

1. To bring recognition to a community that is rarely encountered and misunderstood.
2. To relate learning to the community events of a murder of a woman who was transgender and subsequent ground breaking court case that occurred.
3. To explore students understandings of how gender is constructed.
4. To provide students with an exemplar of a completed educational ethnography developed within the course they are enrolled in.
5. To expose students to diverse possibilities for data representation.

Materials:

1. Full text readings provided
2. Reflexive journals
3. Copies of articles from the Greeley Tribune
4. Glue
5. Paper
6. Scissors
7. Markers
8. Emailed Tribune articles to class

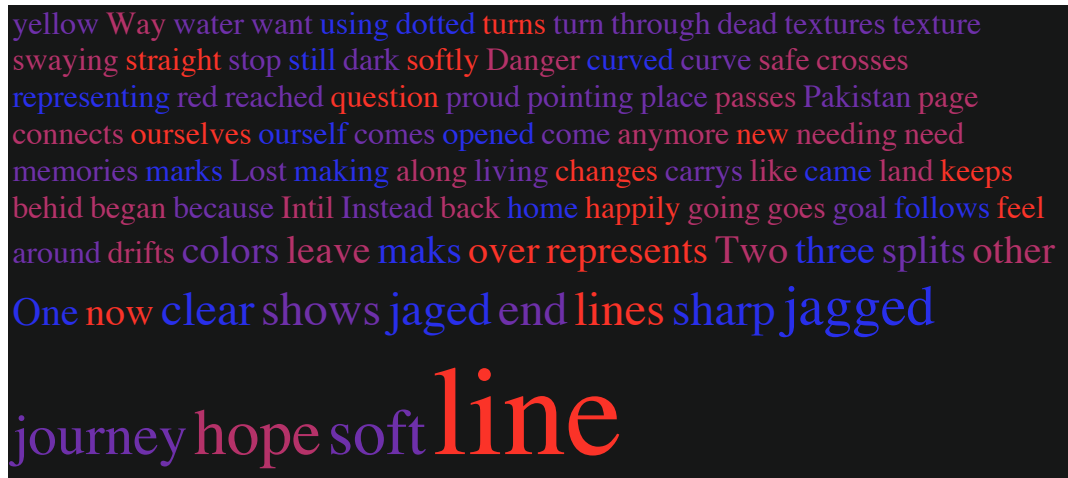
Web Resources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tag_cloud
<http://tagcrowd.com/>
<http://www.wordle.net/>
http://www.abcya.com/word_clouds.htm
<http://worditout.com/>
<http://www.tagxedo.com/>

Space: Reserve space in ASRM computer lab.

Activities:

1. Take a moment to reflect on childhood incidents in school that shaped your understanding of your own gender and society's expectations for how you should enact gender. Choose one of these stories to share with a small group of classmates. When the small group discussions are completed there will be a whole group discussion.
2. Read newspaper articles from the Greeley Tribune on the Angie Zapata murder case. Split into three groups. The first group will work in the lab on the word cloud websites creating shaped word poems from the words in the Tribune articles. The second group will use the actual articles and create representations by cutting and pasting the words. The third group will create data/artifact poems with the words in the articles. Students will cycle through all three groups. See an example of a word cloud below.



When the representations are complete split the class in half. One group at a time will set their work out like a gallery while the other groups examine it and ask questions.

Finally, each student will write a five-minute reflection on what did or did not appeal to them regarding each representation they personally created and share with a classmate.

3. Researcher Reflexive Journal assignment on personal notions of gender construction and how this class experience may or may not impact the educational ethnography each student is conducting.

Important concepts:

Heteronormativity

Sex as a physical identity/Gender as a social construction
Suspending judgment
Obtaining a listening/receptive mode
Expressing the inexpressible in research