



Aneka Bailey

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Within the Herstory/CCW Fellowship Program
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During the uprising of the Black Lives Matter movement, I knew I had to look at the world in a different way than others, especially since I am a Black woman. I want to use my voice to provide positive changes for marginalized communities and discuss with those same communities, ways to improve and demand positive change and better laws. As a graduate student with an interest in creative writing, I want to find a way to discuss the issues in each community without retraumatizing communities that have to constantly fight to be

seen and heard. I don't want to make another movie about racism or slavery, I want to make a movie that depicts strength in our current time, while showing what life is like even in the midst of traumatizing events.

My capstone is a story and a script about seven teenagers who struggle to balance their connection to their culture, being in a predominately white space, and battle supernatural forces. My goal for this project is to amplify and humanize marginalized voices and show that they are individuals. My goal is to avoid redoing trauma that has already been done. With the guidance and tools from the fellowship, I can ensure my final project uplifts the marginalized communities and amplify their voices through the stories being told.

Even in my academic assignments, my research topics focused on marginalized groups, primarily women who were either being erased or silenced from movements, like the Black Lives Matter movement and the #MeToo movement. These assignments allowed me to utilize research skills to support and uplift the voices in these marginalized communities. For instance, I wrote a literature review on Black women in professional writing spaces that were predominately white. With direct quotes from multiple studies and articles, and using important examples discussed in the existing research, I didn't have to retraumatize the subject, which is something I am mindful of.

Outside of my graduate coursework, I worked as a graduate research assistant for the Atlanta Student Movement project (<https://atlstudentmovement.kennesaw.edu/>). Dr. Bohannon, the director of the project, invited me to help research and uncover articles for the projects archive, which I was later tasked with helping retrieve, organize, and compile. With careful attention to detail, I assisted in arranging and organizing website

content to help navigate to the important documents of the civil rights movement. The Atlanta Student Movement project is a social justice project I'd love to work on again. With my academic and creative background focused on social justice, the fellowship is an amazing opportunity that will allow me to better discuss, uplift, and articulate the issues in marginalized communities while watching out for the trauma triggers. Further, through this fellowship, I'll be able to explore creative ways to be a better ally when discussing the issues in communities like the LGBTQ+ community, the Asian community (a group that I compiled research on for a paper), immigrants, and other marginalized communities. I want to help tell their stories, expose the issues, and provide justice for them in a way that doesn't further hurt or scar these communities. The herstory/coalition fellowship will allow me to help amplify voices without erasing them, silencing them, or retraumatizing them. With the fellowships guidance and support, I'll be able to sit with the communities and together we can tell their stories.