

My project is about my personal experience following a sexual assault. I did not want to focus on the assault. Everything following the assault was just as traumatizing as the assault itself. I was called a liar and lost the majority of my friends while my rapist was praised and protected socially. The evidence was in my favor, but no one believed me. The reaction from my peers not only damaged me, but it communicated to my rapist that if he raped someone not only would he face no social consequences, he would be celebrated. There was nothing stopping him, so he raped another girl. I feel a sense of responsibility to share my experience to illustrate the importance of believing victims so that my story stops being so common.

In my mind I have divided the process I went through after the rape in three sections. The first is dealing with the trauma from the assault itself, the second is dealing with the response of the people around me, and the third is reflecting on everything as a whole. I used three separate colored pencil drawings to illustrate each phase of my healing. Each piece is an image that I have stored in my head from each phase.

Hopefully, people who have gone through similar experiences can look at my project, and feel not alone. I just don't want anyone to have to go through what I went through. Obviously I can't completely end rape culture, but hopefully, this helps in some small way.

Bayley M.  
Albuquerque, NM