

I started my research by looking into two things that I am connected to and interested in, the first being ciphers. Throughout my research I explored different types of ciphers and their complexity. For the most part, the beginning ciphers are the least complex and as they move further from the original text they become more complex. The second area I researched was the extreme rise in anti-LGBTQ legislation in the United States so far this year. Most of this legislation is targeting transgender individuals by introducing bills that would make accessing health care, free speech and expression, and public accommodations this is dangerous and even illegal for queer people.

The original text was taken from a statement that the Human Rights Campaign released this year. This statement was announcing a national state of emergency for LGBTQ+ people in the US. This statement came after an extreme increase in anti-queer and anti-trans legislation, with over 490 bills being introduced this year alone. These bills are threatening the lives and safety of LGBTQ+ people across the country. So far at least 78 of these bills have been passed into law. I then took this statement from the HRC and input it into a chain of six different ciphers as it goes through each cipher the text becomes more and more abstracted and disconnected until it is no longer visually depicted as letters. This process helps give a visual representation of how information can change and lose its original meaning and importance over time. In addition, as the text becomes more encrypted the precision of the hand written text decreases to show in another way how it is changing.

Once the encryption was done I created a visual representation of the text moving through each cipher. I did this on illustrator once that was completed I projected it on to the paper and hand wrote out the entire piece. In addition I created smaller visualizations of each cipher with a short description to give context to how it functions.

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