

Dorothy Goodwin Update February  
Hazel Bet Hill McKay

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During this project I have adjusted what my project is and how I define success in several ways. Last month, I realized that I needed to shift the perspective from outside of myself to a more internal lens. I thought that the best way to share my perspective is how I got to hold my beliefs and perspective. I was looking for evidence out in the world for things that I believe to be true through my own experiences. However, that is kind of a biased approach to research and I figured I should draw from myself instead. However, I do not think I am ready to share my whole journey with the world. Especially, the backlash of my family of origin.

Meeting with my advisor, she told me something along the lines of “This is what scholars do! One moment we think that we have it figured out and then a few days go by, and we go oh no that’s not it. Then, we are at the drawing board!” She told me that this is what it is like to become and be a scholar. We are all tackling a problem, a concept of some sort. I joked and said, *that is the story of my life*.

I felt some internal pressure that I needed to have the entire project done by the Symposium. However, I do not think that I need too. The result and product are important, and I want to be able to share my perspective. If I rush the goal of inspiration and my creative hand in this project, I do not believe that I will portray my thoughts in the way that they deserve to be highlighted. The Symposium is sharing my findings, the journey of this particular project not a full-blown telling of how I got to where I am and my entire journey.

The goal of my project is to showcase to others that you can be whatever you like. I want to share that you hold the ability to *Create Yourself*. I am beginning to think that this project is yes for my siblings and for others. Though, I think this project is for me. This is the project, the concept, the thoughts, and the perspective that I need.

A text message I sent my Husband last night:

“I felt kind of existential today which wasn’t a ton of fun. I think I’m overwhelmed with college being over soon. I’ve always had goals of graduating college and some personal development goals and now I have to think of and create new goals.

I’ve been thinking about my *Create Yourself* project and I want to tell people they can be anything they want. But just feel like all I have to say is that. That you can be whatever you want. But I need to do it too. I can’t just be someone that has graduated college and yeah did cool stuff then and then stops. I can’t have myself come to a halt because I get stuck with just preaching you can be whatever you want.

I need new goals and new heights. Maybe I should do some research this week on economic trends and what is likely to be growing in the next x number of years. Then I can focus some energy into those directions. See if I can come up with something. Oo I really want to learn about real estate. Oo and investing – that sounds so interesting. Also, with investing we will have us more money and opportunities in the future.”

*This was the height that I imagined my goals for so long because I have never seen someone do this close to me. I think my eyes have been set on graduating and attending college for so long because that was such a reach for me. Now, I need to figure out what else I am doing. This is part of the discovery, uncertainty, and excitement.*

*Being a business student especially with an entrepreneurial twist in my spirit, I look for business opportunities and vitality within almost everything I do. I cannot help it! With this project I have thought of all the potential business opportunities that I could run with the concept of inspiring and encouraging others to be whatever they want.*

*I think I fear what the future holds. I am trying to think about what it is that I want to do and run after next. I need to see how I will make money. I know that I want kids in the future and to be a mom. Being a mom is what I have always wanted. Then, I can encourage them to be whatever they want when they are young and when they are grown. However, that is not in the deck for me right now. I am not ready to have children quite yet.*

My project now is exploring what it is exactly the things I am interested in and analyzing how I am getting to and through those thoughts. By doing this then I will be able to communicate with others how in my experience I am creating myself. I realize that going to college may not seem like Creating Yourself. Though, in my story, it is. It is not simply just going to college, it is everything that I needed to do, figure out, and overcome to get to the classrooms and campuses. I have created magic this long.

All I need to do is fall back into the trust I have built in myself and believe that I can do this. If I want to preach that you can create yourself, I cannot give up on myself now. In my writings I talk about rebuilding trust in yourself after it being distorted by other thoughts and opinions. Those opinions seep into my mind quite a lot regardless of the amount of work I have done. I am only 21 years old, only so much progress can be made in the constraints of time. Looking back this past weekend as I built my resume, I realized and was reaffirmed, I do a lot, I am successful, and I can do anything. If I can do all that and more, I can create myself 😊

Best,  
Hazel Bet