

Jahne Brown

Narrating Social Change

Final Project Proposal

For my final project, I will record myself delivering a speech as if I were the President of the United States addressing the nation. In my speech, I will propose a plan for handling the Coronavirus pandemic. I specifically want to argue that right wing nationalism and prisons serve as major obstacles to overcoming this disease and other public health crises. I'm imagining that this speech would be something like a fireside chat in that it would be personal and focused on a vision for the country, rather than specific particularities of a policy plan.

Before I begin writing my speech, I plan to spend the next few weeks listening to acclaimed presidential speeches as well as well-known organizing and activist speeches. Through this research I hope to learn about the role that tone, and word choice plays in the delivery and resonance of a speech. I'd like to deliver a speech that isn't simply an articulation of a plan, but instead an articulation of a movement.

In our class we've read, listened, and watched narrations of social change. What I admire so much about these narrations is that every word and movement is so intentional and moving. I was especially inspired by "When They Call You A Terrorist." I'd like my speech to be a mix of intimate stories and speech, with gripping statistics and facts. In this way, my speech will be a work of narrating social change.