

Overview

[The Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University](#) (GHELI) supports interdisciplinary education about world health through the production, curation, and dissemination of educational public goods. This exemplar work was a final project for “World Health: Challenges and Opportunities,” a General Education course at Harvard College taught by GHELI Faculty Director Sue J. Goldie. For this creative assessment designed with support from GHELI, students systematically analyze a societal health challenge they care about and create a “real world” product intended to influence policy or motivate change.

Abstract

A video about a food-insecure college student to raise awareness among students and parents of the ongoing hunger crisis in the college student population.

Artist

Preston Stewart (2020)

Caption


According to a 2019 report from the Temple University Hope Center for College, Community and Justice, nearly half of surveyed college students have faced food insecurity in the past month. This video is intended to be an easily-sharable virtual skit that would raise student and parental awareness of the ongoing hunger crisis affecting college students. The video portrays a hungry college student and his relationship with his uncle, with whom the student struggles to communicate his issues—largely because of the uncle’s ignorance to the reality many college students face regarding hunger.

Hopefully, this video would circulate among college students who would share the video with their parents. Creating awareness among students and parents can lead to actions that put pressure on universities and policymakers to implement solutions like increasing accessibility to the USDA’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Artist Lens

The video I produced is organized into three sections. The first section (the pre-dream sequence scenes) was filmed and edited to resemble the visual style of early film-era silent movies, using updated language for a modern audience. The uncle is patterned after older people who claim that younger generations are afforded privileges that were unavailable to their own generation.

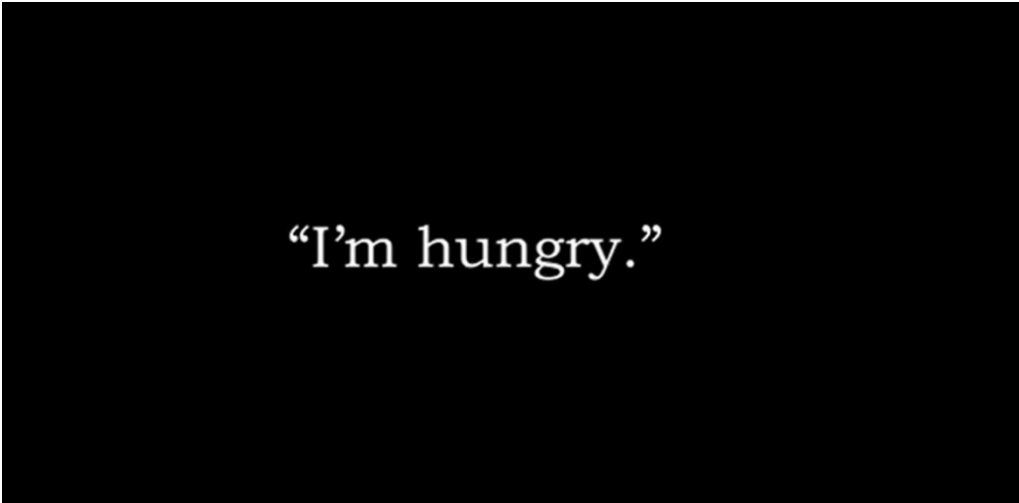
The second section is the dream sequence itself, which parodies the recent blockbuster *Joker*, taking particular inspiration from the movie’s trailers. The dream sequence is supposed to depict the hungry college student, but from an exaggerated version of his uncle’s perspective that college students are ‘insane’ for asking for assistance. The exaggeration is meant to poke fun at the uncle’s viewpoint. In fact, Uncle Murray is named after Murray Franklin, a talk-show host in *Joker* who is antagonistic toward the main character, Arthur Fleck. The college student takes on the role of Fleck, who develops into the titular villain over the course of *Joker*.



The final section consists mostly of two facts, a slogan, and music. The music in this section (and featured in the first section) is the Doors' 1967 song "The End." This song was selected for multiple reasons. First, the title of "The End" and the title of the movie it was most famously used in, *Apocalypse Now*, are appropriate nods to the urgency of my video's topic. Second, the song helps create a narrative with music. "Smile," which was used in the official teaser trailer for *Joker*, is included to explicitly mirror the trailer and to represent the attitude that Uncle Murray holds. Both songs contribute to creating an ominous tone for the video, contrasting the absurd and somewhat humorous tone of the visual elements of the presentation. The juxtaposed tones are an attempt to make the video memorable for its audience.

Media

Video



"I'm hungry."

[Hunger Crisis in College Student Population](#)