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Shaelyn Westbrook

Shaelyn Westbrook is a sophomore that will be attending Malcolm Rector Technical High School for her junior year. She lives with her mom, stepdad, two brothers, and five cats. Her favorite activities are binge-watching Netflix and cuddling said cats against their will.

The Death of Truth

Where truth once prospered, lies now run rampant. Those decadent, silky lies that we try to wrap our beings with like a cloak to protect ourselves. To protect us from the harsh reality that we fear so much. When truth pierces through the fabric of lies that we've woven, we try to patch our altered views up again. I believe that no matter how bitter-tasting the truth is, it should be delivered wrapped with bows and razors. We lie to hurt people or to protect them. No matter the case, it's still going to damage them in one way or another. Truth hurts, but lies hurt more no matter why they're told.

Dear Homophobes

Dear homophobes,

Greetings from your friendly neighborhood queer. All I've heard this week is "where's straight pride month?"... You are literally the majority and your sexuality is constantly on display. Asking for straight pride month is like asking for living cemeteries. We are not trying to turn you gay. To all of you straight men that are terrified of being in closed quarters with gay men, most of them are fans of consensual sex. Which, by the way, is a concept you have not yet mastered. To those of you demanding us to try sex with the opposite gender to make sure that we aren't straight ... Why don't you try sex with the same gender to make sure you aren't gay? Most people in the gay community hear on a daily basis that they want special treatment, but in all actuality, you are the ones that want special treatment. We just want to be able to walk down the street holding the hand of the person we love without the hate and negativity. So please, for the love of God, stop with the ignorance. Stop with the abuse. This is our planet too, so please be kind or you won't be on it very long.

Sincerely,

Every fucking person with a different orientation than you.

Writing Activity

1. Have you ever had someone tell you something that they believed, but you knew was not true? The idea of truth in our current social, cultural, and political environment is often hotly debated. What is your idea of truth? How can you try to see other people's point of views, but not minimize the truth surrounding events or situations? Draw a comic strip that captures the idea of truth and how you view truth.
2. Have you ever wanted to write a scathing open letter to someone? The writer of this letter had obviously dealt with this type of behavior and was hurt by it. Write a letter to someone who you don't understand or who has hurt you.