

In my CL Environmental Science Class, I had the opportunity to pitch an event idea regarding the environment. I knew immediately that I had to do a one-man show as an event. I gave my pitch, which was supposed to last two minutes but lasted seven, through a slideshow. The last slide contained a quote from Toni Morrison that says, 'writers—journalists, essayists, bloggers, poets, playwrights—can disturb the social oppression that functions like a coma on the population.' With her mentioning playwrights, that quote encapsulated my feeling regarding the power of plays in delivering a political message. I knew that a play had the potential to not only be a window for the audience to escape to, but also a mirror of our society.

As someone who likes to read and write small plays, playwriting for my own event was exciting. When writing the script, I realized that I wanted to incorporate the meaning of "freedom." I had this idea of "freedom", this formless hunch looming over my shoulder for weeks, and I knew I had to write about it. I found the contention between moral corruption and freedom intriguing, and I wanted to explore it. Also, while writing the piece, I contended with the theme of freedom myself. As a young artist, I wanted to be free from my own expectations and limits. It's such an interesting idea because the notion of "freedom" has different meanings for each one of us. At the end of the show, the Senator says, "It's too late for me to be free." That line contains a certain potency and meaning that can be interpreted differently by each audience member.

When creating the character of the Senator, I watched the mannerisms and the quotes of current U.S. Senators, especially when they were challenged on the issue of climate change. Watching them defend themselves is always interesting, especially once you can see that they know that they're wrong.

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