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## Identi-Tea Podcast: An Original Play

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## Creative Works Essay

*Identi-Tea Podcast* is an interactive, verbatim play which centers the voices of queer and transgender students of color at UNLV. Verbatim theatre (also known as documentary theatre) is a style of theatre which incorporates the word-for-word accounts of people into a performance piece. I started my search for finding queer and transgender students of color at UNLV to interview by asking students of UNLV Spectrum and those who attended a forum conducted by the SDSJ for queer and transgender students of color in Fall 2018.

I found three students who were enthusiastic about the project, and I scheduled three separate times to conduct these interviews. In each of the recorded interviews, I asked the students to list and describe their experiences as related to the big eight social identifiers: race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, religion, nationality and socioeconomic status. Then I asked them the following questions: "Which of your identities are you most proud of," "What is a moment in your life where you felt pressured to decide between two choice, and you're curious about what could have happened if you made a different choice," and "If you were talking to a younger version of yourself at your worst state, what would you want to tell them?"

I transcribed all three interviews, and I combined and edited them in a way that maintained the essence of what the interviewees expressed. The second form of theatre that inspired me in writing *Identi-Tea Podcast* was Theatre of the Oppressed, which emphasizes the importance of making the audience active participants of the performance. In various moments during the performance, the audience is prompted to add their thoughts on the different topics, which forces them to critically engage in the play.