

## **Julia Kolman - Designer of the Year personal statement**

Throughout my three years on the Bear Witness staff, I learned about the key elements of design, skills on Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, and how to package a story while relaying a topic visually. Over the course of my journalism career, the majority of my articles and design has focused on social justice issues, such as suicide, immigration, and sexual harassment. This school year, my most noteworthy pieces were on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the culture surrounding eliciting and sending nudes, sexual harassment and victim blaming, the First Amendment on high school campuses, and a recap of the most important social media trends of the school year. All of my illustrations are done digitally through Adobe programs, which I have experimented with each production cycle. This school year, I began using words as a design tool, rather than traditional story formats. This can be seen in my free speech spread, which has the First Amendment written out, and broken up visually by each clause. Again on my page on sexual harassment, I listed common phrases of victim blaming to make these words a focus of the page. These design techniques were done through Adobe InDesign. On a more technical level, I experimented on Adobe Illustrator for my design on sending nudes and the effect of DACA on California. I duplicated the individuals outlines and placed them in an outline of California on the infographic accompanying “Dreamers Deferred.” For the visual tied to the practice of victim blaming, I used a vertical text to write out “Send Nudes,” and duplicated and manipulated the text to appear as rain. All of the pie charts and bar graphs I have created were done through Illustrator as well, using the chart tool. Most of my knowledge on these programs came through experimenting and observing design inspiration in various journalism feature

books. As a designer, I have learned several key points, including that illustrations and infographics are crucial to making a story interesting and eye catching.