Rise Above the Noise

For my visual argument, I decided to make a poster about black, female athletes. I have always been a huge fan of sports and love watching and playing most of them. For this specific topic I decided to focus on women’s sports because they typically get a lot of hate just for existing. On top of that, black women get criticized even more for existing in the sports world, so I really wanted to highlight that. I am hoping that my poster is influential to those who are black in the sports world and influences those who are not to support black women. I decided on a few of these specific people because of their status in the sports world. Serena Williams paved the way for black girls in tennis. That was not without criticism, but now is seen as one of the “GOAT’s”. Now onto a newer player, Angel Reese who cannot escape Caitlin Clark comparisons, when in reality it becomes a black vs. white problem. She is consistently criticized for the same things that Clark does yet she is seen as a “thug”. It is sad to see how these women are put down already for playing women’s sports, but adding the race component affects their mental health on a whole different level, which many have talked about. Simone Biles had to take a break mid-Olympics because of the pressure and she received so much hate for it, some without criticism and just racism.

For my design process I was trying to incorporate things that have been said about these athletes and the athletes themselves. I was thinking about how to include both and I decided to overlap the different article names to create a collage, with athletes on top. In some ways I would say this included the Picture Superiority Effect because I used the pictures to block out the words, and tried creating blank space. By putting the athletes on top, it overshadows the words, which is what I was aiming for because we shouldn’t listen to the negativity towards these women. For the words, I didn’t want them to get lost on the page, so I created a square for them to be bold and grab attention. I also made sure to put the articles on the bottom half and the athletes on the top half and on top of the words to show they don’t slow them down.

A challenge that I found was how to layout my poster. At first I wasn’t sure whether I should put the articles on top or bottom to show that sometimes the criticism is all people see, but I decided to uplift instead. I played around with the layout a lot, but found I liked it this way the best. All together, I really enjoyed making this piece and hope it encourages people to be more respectful to these athletes that work hard to be where they are.