

Profiles of Students at TNS (Theme: is college worth it?)

- Humans of New York-esque profiles about student leaders
- 5 in total
- Black and white design aesthetic → close-ups

Questions

1. What is your name? What year are you in?
2. Is college a choice for you?
3. Did your parents go to college?
4. Why did you decide to go to The New School?
5. What are your goals in life?
6. Is this school helping you accomplish your goals?
7. Did you go into debt to go here?
8. Is college worth it?

Micha's Interview:

1. What is your name? What year are you in?

My name is Micha Borneo, I'm a second-semester junior at Lang.

2. Is college a choice for you?

College wasn't a choice for me. It was something I was told from very young that college was just expected and I would be completely isolated from my family in the event that I chose not to go. So it wasn't a choice to me. I didn't even know college was a choice until my second or third year in high school and I realized, "Oh people don't go to college!" I had always thought that college was a natural part of just existence because I grew up in an educated family that had all gone to college. I also grew up relatively low-income, so with that background and that experience, my parents definitely emphasized college as a way for me to not have to go through a lot of the same financial disadvantages or the same situations that they had to go through while I was young and growing up. This was a way to get your economic and educational liberation—through college. It wasn't a choice, no. Everything my mom— I was in a private school since the age of two, and I can still say I go to private school now, because I go to a private institution. Everything is for college. Because they knew— or they thought it would be easier not only to college but get financial aid and scholarships being in a private school.

3. Why did you decide to go to The New School?

I was just a rock in a hard place. I was at Mills College so I had gone to college across the country to where I grew up so it was a huge change. And then when I decided I no longer wanted to be on the West Coast, I wanted to be on the East Coast, I applied to NYU, The New School, St. Johns and Barnard. I was wait-listed at NYU, I didn't get into Barnard. I got into St. Johns and The New School, and The New School is a better university in my opinion, with more progressive thinkers and radical thinkers, so this was just a better fit for me personally. That's why I ended up here.

4. What are your goals in life?

My goals in life are to finish my undergraduate in Politics and Economics, get a Masters in Africana studies and go onto do whatever it takes to one day end up being a published writer and have a talk show where I can talk about race, politics, wealth and money.

Radical Oprah. I definitely think that if you are a Black woman in media to not pay homage to Oprah would be to disacknowledge the fact that she paved the way for so many of us Black women to see ourselves on major networks every day, doing what we love, and being paid really well for it, and having the chance to speak to dignified people from all around the world. And we are more than qualified to have those types of jobs too and do really well at them and be the best

women to see ourselves on major networks every day, doing what we love, and being paid really well for it, and having the chance to speak to dignified people from all around the world. And we are more than qualified to have those types of jobs too and do really well at them and be the best at them in our fields. I think Oprah was — I would say Oprah was the first Black woman I experienced in my life that was on the television that I could see. She was on the television every day able to do what it is that she had studied to do in school. My mom and a lot of my friends' parents who are Black women did not get that luxury of doing their dream job and getting paid really well for it, and be amazing for that and be recognized for that talent and have people endorsed them for that and have people back them up if they want. Oprah to me was one of the first Black women I saw doing that, and having those opportunities and still being a Black woman, being a curvy woman and wearing her natural hair at times. And not having that assimilation into whiteness or white beauty standards. And still maintaining that power and expand it. Even to this day has been amazing, if nothing else has given us the confidence to know that we can do it showing us that we can accomplish it. That's really important.

5. Is this school helping you accomplish your goals?

Yes, I think it has given me a community of people that are like-minded that I may not have known if I did not come here. I think it has given me a world of experiences, both oppressive and not. I think it has given me resources, not only just at this school about in New York...

6. Is college worth it?

Given the debt that I will be in when I leave this institution or the isolation I've felt living in New York and the isolation I have felt with all races living here, I think that's a subjective question. I don't know. I think some days are better than others. So today it's worth it. It's a fluctuating experience— an emotional experience. As much as I learned, there has been so many days where I feel like I have grown too. I understand people who don't go to college and are still successful, whether they make money or not....

Jane Lee:

On the 13th street, between 5th avenue and University Pl, there was a young woman wearing all black and on top of that, a black cape. On the black cape, it said "EXPAND YOUR EMPATHY." The young woman is Jane Lee.

Lee is a sophomore double majoring in fine art and psychology at The New School. The cape was for her fine art core seminar class. For her midterm, she needed to create a public performance piece with a wearable slogan of text. Lee said she used "expand your empathy" as her slogan because "it relates to a certain kind of artificial coldness that comes with being removed from a personable situation" and also "the ability to create true empathy through reading of situations globally through such a cold surface as the glass on one's smart phone." Through this piece, she wanted to draw attention, elicit reactions, anything from the public and see where that leads the point of the message. Her inspiration for this piece came from recent media. She started to notice the disproportionate media coverage of tragedies in mainly white european countries but almost none for Haiti, Jamaica, Aleppo and Beirut

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European countries but almost none for Haiti, Jamaica, Nepal and Benin.

Lee decided to go to The New School because it was one of the cheapest options and also “it was the best deal in terms of education vs. out of pocket cost.” She never second thought about going to college. For her, college was her only option to go on with her life. Lee knew very clear that she wanted to become an arts therapist in the future. She believed that her school is helping her accomplishing her goal especially with its unique system of education.