

Lesson 2:

What To Write About: From Within or Without?

Writing Exercise by Angelo Esperanzate

Exercise 1: Write your Truth Claim

(5 minutes)

LGBT Rights

Being an LGBT person puts you at the crossroads of vulnerability because of the intersectionality of being the “other”. This is true, whether or not you have lesser ticks in the checklist of what makes you marginalized or you’ve filled it out completely. The fact that you do not ascribe to society’s basic understanding of what constitutes to being a functional individual, whether male or female, that will proliferate their image of a basic unit of society, then you are unacceptable. This then puts up hurdles of amenities to what normally others can access. This applies to the imposition of religious morality towards people who do not ascribe to the archaic gender roles and facets of a binary understanding of sexuality.

Exercise 2: Write from the opposite stance

(5 minutes)

Following the exclusivity of male and female is not a discussion of gender or religion but biology. Being born with the reproductive system of either a man or a woman dictates upon the benefits and responsibilities that come with them. Women are engineered to be able to bear children, therefore are the natural carers for children. Having two men have no biological purpose in nature because they cannot procreate, do not have the biological capacity to care for children, like breastfeeding ones.

Exercise 3: Monologue

I’ve always believed that gender roles are as fluid as gender itself. To the point that sometime in the future, the binary might not be the same way we think of it now or might not exist at all. This is due to time affecting society and technology erasing the lines that biology has set in place.

But there’s also the fact that biology still plays a huge part of a person’s life experience. Having a vagina, for example, makes their perspective on things different from those who don’t. Being able to get pregnant, or experience the difficulty of menstruation for some, also affects the person as they age. And there is difference as well for those who are brought up as boys and the privileges that come with them. But clearly, those aren’t the only things that define what it is to be a man or a woman.

And I think with a clear understanding of the current situation and acknowledging them along

with the movement of a gender-based advocacy, there's always room for people to talk about their personal experiences and how they perceive gender. Because at the end of the day, gender is a collective perception. So these truths are as fluid as the concept of gender and the flow of time.

Exercise 4: Write a 2-character scene. Put an object.

INT. MALL. DAY.

The scene opens with two people, CHARLIE and LAURA choosing an appropriate baby shower gift. LAURA waves the pink stuffed elephant in front of CHARLIE's face who was busy texting.

LAURA

Bakla, ano na nga? Ano bang hula mo? Babae kaya 'yong baby o lalaki? Bakit kasi nagpa-gener reveal eme pa 'yong baby shower eh.

Laura continues to wave the pink elephant.

CHARLIE

Ma, ano na? Nagtetext ako. At saka, ano bang pino-problema mo sa kulay. Malay ba nung baby. Babae man 'yan o lalaki, kahit pink pa ang kunin mo, kebs lang 'yon.

LAURA

Tsaka baka gawin niya lang unan 'to. Pero kapag pink kasi tapos lalaki, baka sabihin nung mga magulang ang echosera ko.

CHARLIE

Again, kahit 'yong bata hindi pa alam ang konsepto ng pagiging lalaki o babae.

CHARLIE grabs the pink elephant stuffed toy.

Kunin mo na 'to at dumeretso na tayo sa men's section. Bibili pa ako ng polo.

LAURA

Bakla, 'yong mga magulang ang iniisip ko. Baka sabihin nila ginagawa kong bakla ang anak nila.

CHARLIE

At ano naman ang masama doon?

LAURA

Hyper religious sila 'di b?

Charlie shrugs his shoulders.

CHARLIE

Hay nako, ang problema kasi natin, pati ba naman mga bagay na wala tayong kinalaman eh kailangan inaayon natin sa gender. Ma, pati kulay? Ako na kakausap sa magulang, kapag nagkataon. Nangaano sila eh.

LAURA

O siya, siya. Pink na kukunin ko. May point ka naman. Baka nga after a year sira na 'yong laruan eh. O, tara na sa mga polo mo. Baka pink polo nanaman ang bilhin mo eh.

Laura grabs the pink elephant and leads CHARLIE walking.

CHARLIE

Wit, Ma. Blue, final interview ko eh.

LAURA

Huh, bakit?

CHARLIE

Baka hindi ako mapromote, puro boomer nasa panel ko eh.

LAURA

'Pokritang 'to. Tara na nga.