**What experience, relationship, or conversation helped you most to understand what it**

**means to be trans?**

So I started having thoughts in middle school around 7th grade in relation to my gender, but at the time for some reason i didn't think anything of them because yes my 12 year old self thought wishing to be a woman was a normal thing guys do, but I didn't really pay much attention to it because I didn't understand it. Around sophomore year of HS is when I actually started questioning my gender because i had gotten into D&D with some online friends and our DM assigned us random characters, and mine happened to be a woman, so I started to wonder why I ended up liking playing a woman so much and I spent probably the next two years thinking about it doing research, learning about trans stuff and wondering if I was trans.

**At what age did this happen?**

Started around 7th grade and realized around sophomore year of high school

**How do you define what it means to be trans?**

I would say that I would define being trans as being different from the gender you were assigned at birth but thats also what google or the dictionary will tell you so ill try to go into a bit more detail about it. Trans people often get dysphoria which is a feeling of distress caused by a misalignment of your body with how you feel it should be. This isn't required to be trans however, all you need to be trans is to prefer to be a certain gender and feel more comfortable with identifying as a different gender than you were assigned at birth. The best way to figure out if you're trans is really just to experiment with lots of things and see what feels the best.

**What are the advantages of being trans?**

It’s not all bad though, at least I have a good sense of self and who I am now, and transitioning has made me more confident and more outgoing, and I’m finally starting to have more fun in life, although that could just be from going to college. I also don’t want to die every day so that's nice. And I get an instant friendship with other trans people which is kinda cool. But yeah mental state went up and safety went down.

**What are the disadvantages of being trans?**

So being trans definitely has disadvantages. I have to worry about how I look every time I want to go to the bathroom, and I have to hear people misgender me which isn't really fun and causes dysphoria which I was talking about earlier. In order to avoid this it means coming out to every person I meet which gets tiring very quickly. Of course that depends alot on looks and voice but it's still a problem for many trans people. It's also technically legal to murder trans or gay people in some states (14 states have passed a bill that makes it technically legal and 12 more have introduced it but not passed it at least according to search results for how many states have done that) and I always have to stay aware of politics as my rights are being debated constantly because other people take an issue with how people live their lives for some reason. I'm fortunate enough to live in a state which isn't constantly trying to ban access to gender affirming health care as far as I'm aware but many states are or already have banned or tried to ban access to trans healthcare and some even allow doctors to refuse medical service that isn't related to transitioning just because a patient is trans or gay. Travel by flight can also be bad with the TSA's gender separated scanners can result in anomalies for trans people causing them to be picked out from the crowd and have to tell TSA agents that they are trans which can lead to humiliation depending on the TSA agent.

**May I use your name in my presentation?** Yes. Jaku Satsangi