

# WHAT'S POPPYN

*In this digital zine, POPPYN producers share their thoughts, feelings, and reflections on 2020.*

# HUMAN PIGMENT

Writer: Lilly  
Artist: Maryem

Human pigment is relevant.  
Color is the confident feature,  
without permission or knowledge.  
Love exists within these colors.  
Why?

Within these colors,  
there is meaning.  
Within these colors  
there is relevance.  
Within these colors,  
there should be irrelevance.

Human pigment is relevant.  
Whether you reflect on the reason  
for your particular color or not,  
the pigment will always be.

Why is it rare that the tone of someone's  
skin is portrayed in a positive light,  
only if you're darker than milk.  
When these colors seat love,  
they seem to also house fear.  
This fear leads us down a path of hate,  
discrimination,  
and division.

Human pigment is relevant.  
relevant when applying for jobs,  
schools,  
houses,  
and healthcare.  
It dictates your monthly salary.  
It governs your neighborhood.  
It diminished your dreams.  
Why?

Human pigment is relevant.  
When choosing to build walls or bridges,  
Whether we ban or grant,  
If we stand idly or take action.  
Human pigment has relevance.  
It's relevance should not be hateful,  
but purposeful.



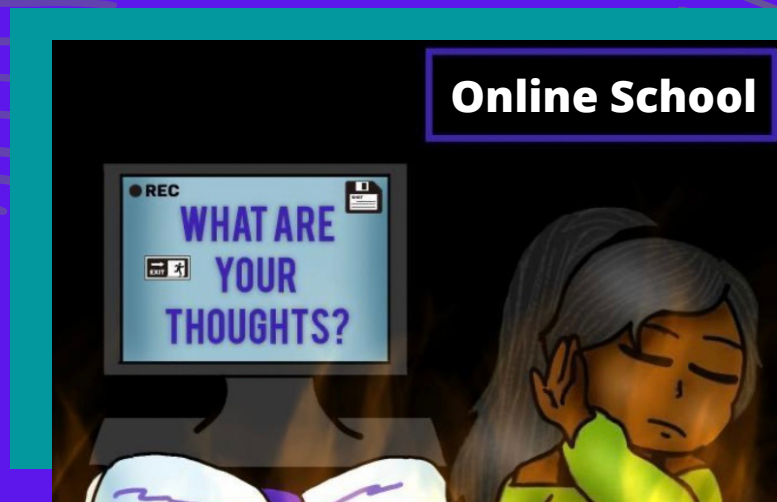
Human pigment is supposed to be irrelevant.  
Your skin tone does not limit your humanness.  
Your skin tone does not define you.  
Your skin tone does describe you.  
Your skin tone should never be used against you.  
It is a part of you,  
Human pigment is irrelevant.

# ILLUSIONS

Writer: Kiki Artist: Rubee Video: Rubee

Hope was the last thing i had  
and even that has fled from me  
we were just kids  
so naive and so dumb  
to ever think this life was truly our own.  
and our decisions somehow mattered.  
freedom was a falsity,  
an illusion to cling to after  
hollow nights spent sobbing and heavy days  
stuffing agony screams  
we dreamt of a better life, a better future.  
but oh was it so little that we knew of the world.

Everything we thought we knew,  
we didn't  
we were just kids, living in delusions.  
idolizing what could never be.  
and now the aftermath  
will continue to haunt me  
and reside in the corner of my mind  
where no other thoughts lie  
I stared wide-eyed at my ceiling  
till it began to blink back at me  
i can feel the coldness of winter entering  
through the slit of my window  
it's crawling up on my skin.  
and at that moment  
i remember that I am real.  
my thoughts are scattered all around my room  
depression like a tornado has waltzed its way into  
here.



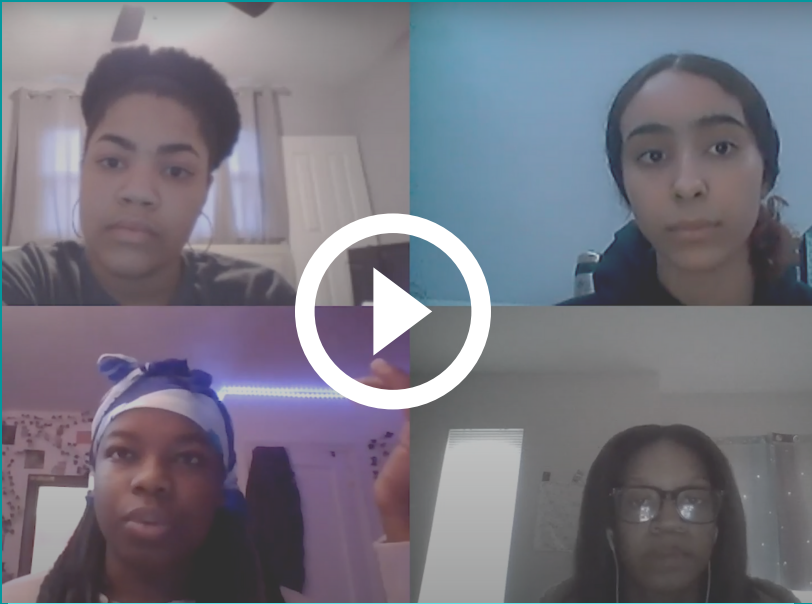
*Click the video to watch!*

Rubee shares her personal experience navigating the new challenge of being a student during a health crisis.

# POPPYN POLITICS



*Click the videos to watch!*



## REMOTE LEARNING IS EXHAUSTING

Students share their experiences attending school online.

STUDENTS:  
MARYEM, KIKI, LILLY, BRI

## LET'S TALK ABOUT 2020 ELECTION

Students give their perspectives on voting, suppression, and the 2020 Presidential Election.

STUDENTS:  
MARYEM, KIKI, MATT, & LILLY



# Meet the Team...

Find out what they've learned about themselves  
this past year



**AMINA**

"I LEARNED THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY OK TO FULLY EMBRACE MYSELF WITHOUT GUILT"



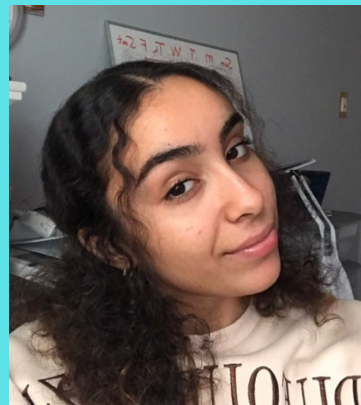
**RUBEE**

"IT'S BEEN 1 YEAR, 12 MONTHS, 52 WEEKS, 365 DAYS AND I HAVE LEARNED TO LOVE MYSELF A BIT MORE :)"



**LILLY**

"2020 TAUGHT ME THAT YOU'RE NEVER REALLY READY TO GROW UP, YET DOING IT HAPPENS ALMOST NATURALLY"



**MARYEM**

"I LEARNED THAT I STILL HAVE A CREATIVE SIDE WITHIN ME."



**BRIANNA**

"ONE THING THAT I LEARNED ABOUT MYSELF THIS YEAR IS THAT I PREFER TO CRY ALONE"



**MATT**

"I LEARNED THAT I CAN HANDLE A LARGE WORK LOAD SO LONG AS I PLAN MY WEEK WITHIN MY SCHEDULE."



**KIKI**

"I'D SAY I LEARNED YOU CAN'T AVOID SELF INTROSPECTION"