

## the MIXTAPE project //

### The Task:

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We've been talking about *power* and *institutions*. You've already written about "a broken system" in your last assignment. Then together as a class we made mixtapes as a way to define, discover, and curate "texts." Now I want you to put it all together. I want you to create another mixtape, this one a bit longer and about your broken system.

Remember what makes a good playlist. The songs are thematic, but they vary in tone and mood. They speak to one another while also standing alone. Please reach out if you want to think through your mixtape with someone.



### Expectations:

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- No thesis. No conclusion. No transition sentences. Instead:
- A one-page introduction to the mixtape that tells me what system or institution you're researching and how your 8 "texts" together help you think about the issue at hand.
- Eight to ten entries each with minimum 100-word explanation
  - Each explanation should be both summary and analytical (that is, tell me **why** this is an important text to include on your playlist, not just what the text is and says).
  - Include quotes or lyrics or visuals!
- **TWO** of your entries must be sourced from PittCat (an academic journal or an academic book) **OR** from something we've read/watched this term

### Helpful notes:

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**Entry possibilities:** documentaries, songs, news reports, protest art, manifestos, speeches, political events, academic articles or books (check out PittCat), memoirs, fiction, poetry, biographies, comics, political figures, an archival object, a symbol or flag, a year in time, a twitter thread, texts we've already read in class, etc.

**When citing:** you do not have to use formal citation (eg., mla). Just give me enough to go off of. For example:

#### **Entry 1: sam sax's book of poems *Madness***

*Madness* is sam sax's debut collection of poems. It confronts the stigma and shame associated with mental health, sexuality, and substance abuse. sax uniquely begins each section in *Madness* with long quotations from the DSM, illustrating the troubled history of cloaking so much of life as disorder. In *Madness* sax situates the reader at the intersections of addiction, recovery, desire, queer embodiment, and family history. He creates a tactile reading experience wherein everything is connected and implicated and nothing is judged. For that reason it helps me think through what it means to categorize people and why mental health, as an institution, needs to move beyond categories in giving care.