

• THE •

Selfie Project

Allison Skaggs

Epidectic



Allison Skaggs is wearing a false wig, false goatee, and oversized sunglasses posing with a white, stuffed animal dog. The white text in the upper left hand corner reads, "Skaggs as Mugatu" matching the black text represented on the on the front of Allison's sweater.

Epideictic

Epideictic rhetoric is a “genre delivered before an audience of spectators, which praises or blame a subject” (Aristotle).

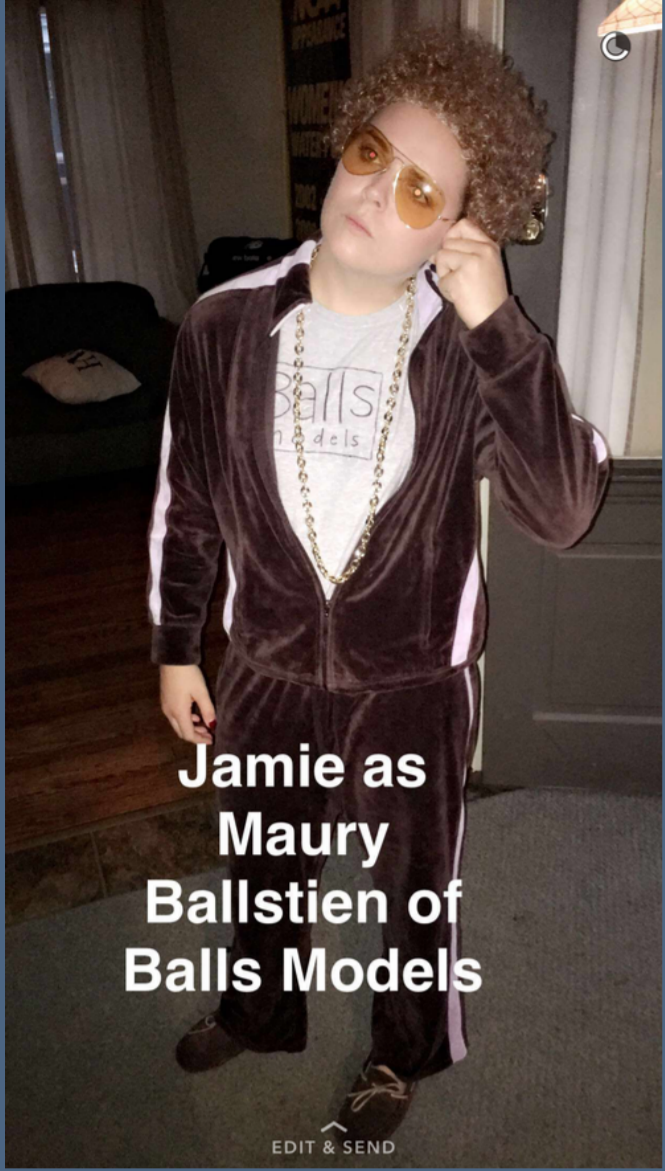
Selfies display epideictic discourse by either celebrating or blaming something being represented in the photo. Through the act of celebrating or blaming, certain aspects of the subject’s values and character are demonstrated (Lauer).

Epideictic discourse also possesses a temporal element of existing in the present, making the meaning of the content dependent on the norms and truths of that time.

For epideictic discourse I chose to include a selfie that I took this past Halloween. I am dressed as “Mugatu,” who is played by comedian Will Ferrell, from the film Zoolander. The values and personal characteristics that I chose to celebrate are my humor and my ability to not take life too seriously. In most areas of my life I am a serious person, so I wanted to depict my values of letting loose and having fun on certain occasions.

My roommates and I have dressed up for Halloween together for the past three years and, as you can see, we fully committed to the people we were attempting to portray with the intent to elicit humorous responses. This selfie also encompasses the temporal nature of the epideictic discourse in that the audience needs to understand the “norms and truths” of the time, which in this instance is Halloween, clarifying the purpose of the content. The text "Skaggs as Mugatu" also indicates that I am posing as a character.

Epidectic



Jamie as
Maury
Ballstien of
Balls Models

EDIT & SEND



Emily
browning as
Matilda

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Bratney as
Hansel

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Kim as
Derek
Zoolander

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Larko as my
trusted
advisor
Katinka

EDIT & SEND



Heidi as JP
Prewitt, the
best hand
model in the
world

EDIT & SEND



Deliberative



Allison Skaggs is taking up almost half of the left side of the frame. She is wearing sunglasses, a blue plaid scarf, and softly smiling. The top right corner displays a light pink strip of paper that reads "#PROUDTOBEAWOMAN." Below the pink rectangle, the majority of the right side of the frame consists of a piece of street art that displays in yellow and black ink the words, "selfie this" inside of a hand flashing a middle finger gesture surrounded by animated portraits.

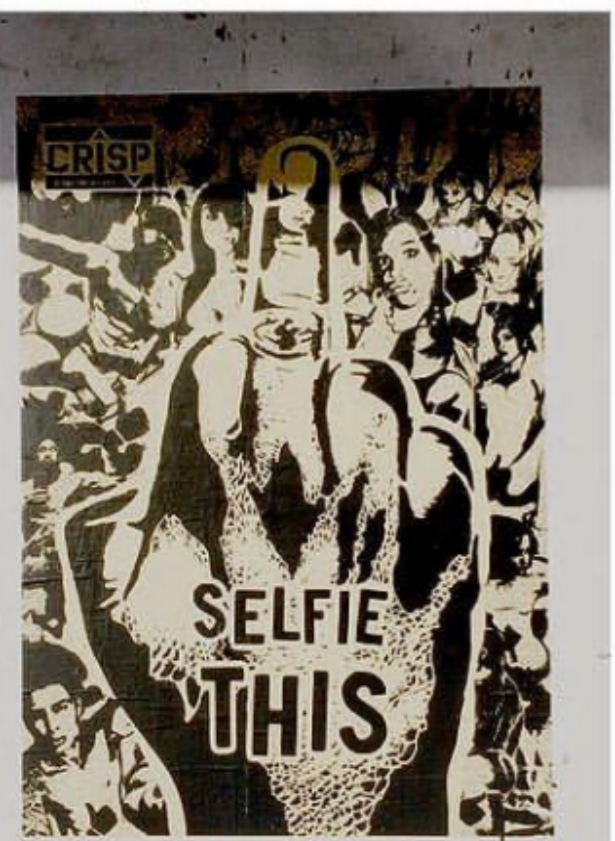
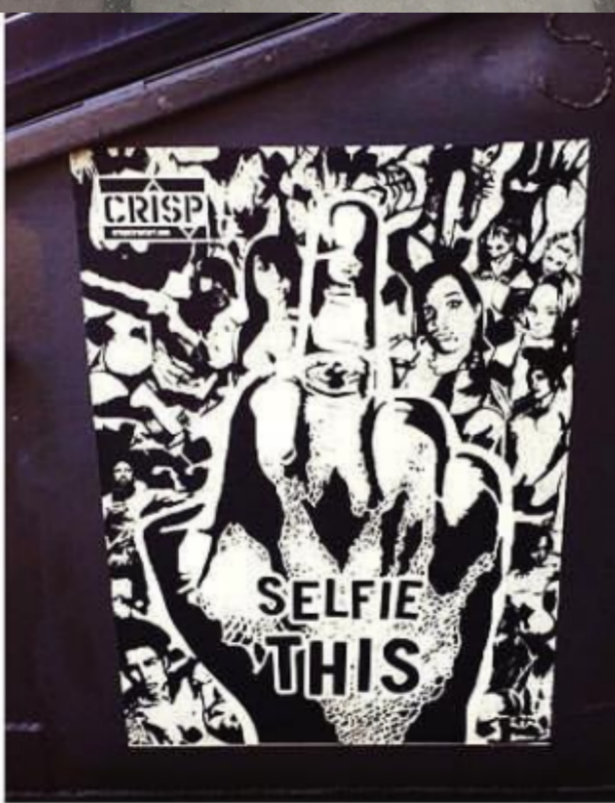
Deliberative

The aspect of deliberative rhetoric that I chose to focus on in this selfie is to persuade the audience to take some sort of action.

Deliberative rhetoric presents an argument to an audience for judgment. Graver, acknowledges Aristotle's practical world "that is found not only in one person persuading another, but in one part of the soul persuading another" (189). I decided to use this selfie because it encourages the audience to interact with street art. I have always been interested in art. I took art lessons for seven years as a child, and although they did not translate into artistic talent/ability, the lessons contributes to my fascination with art history, and primarily Modern Art.

I took this selfie on Elizabeth Street in Manhattan on a trip I took this fall to New York City. One of my favorite things to do in New York is to walk around unfamiliar streets and observe the signs and street art. The aspect of the selfie that I am focusing on is myself with the "Selfie This" print, which is by an Australian street artist who goes by the name "Crisp." Although the art itself persuaded me to take a selfie because it is deliberative in its text "Selfie This," my compliance with the art serves as a persuasive call to action to take more selfies and be more participative in/aware of street art. The artist, Crisp, emphasizes communities reclaiming the street aesthetic as their own from capitalist advertising and corporate slogans, through his artwork. Therefore, Crisp's work and other street artists alike, can be instrumental for people to persuade others or advocate for a cause through the deliberative discourse.

Deliberative



Forensic

Allison Skaggs is in the bottom right hand corner of the frame, treading water in a pool and wearing a yellow swim cap. Behind her is 16 of her water polo teammates smiling and also wearing swim caps.



Forensic

I took this selfie after practice one day using a GoPro, in Canham Natatorium, the University of Michigan competition pool. I chose to present myself as a member of Michigan Athletics, and specifically, a member of the women's water polo team. Kenneth Burke affirms that through his analysis of consubstantiality that individuals identify with preexisting entities. To identify with that entity implies that one must integrate themselves with that entity in order to achieve the desired socialization. The women's water polo team has been a varsity sport at the University of Michigan for 17 years, and I have been a member of the team for just under four years. I became a member of the Michigan team with 9 years of water polo playing experience and knowledge, therefore, I underwent the process of adjusting to identifying with a new and preexisting group.

Burke Emphasizes that "identification is compensatory to division" (5). In my selfie, I acknowledge that I am a member of the athletic community by displaying the participation of physical activity for the University. However, the setting of the pool, my "uniform," and comfortable expression emphasizes my identity of being a member of the women's water polo team, specifically. My teammates at the University of Michigan have been my best friends and have had major influence on numerous aspects of my life, which is why I am proud to not only identify myself as an athlete, but a member of a respected team. To date, I have played water polo for twelve years and contribute my competitive nature and driven work habits to competing in sport. Athletics has always been a comfortable place for me not only to excel physically, but to grow and develop into a better individual in all areas of my life. The water polo community has not only afforded me lifetime friends, but an expanding community of strong women to look up to and learn from.

Forensic



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2017 MICHIGAN WATER POLO • 11/5-6 COLLEGIATE CUP • 1/20-22 UCSB TOURNAMENT • 2/4-5 STANFORD INVITE • 2/11-12 TRITON INVITE
2/24-26 IRVINE TOURNAMENT • 3/4-5 WOLVERINE INVITE • 3/17-18 LMU INVITE • 3/25 VS. INDIANA • 4/8 AT BUCKNELL, VS. PRINCETON
4/9 VS. GEORGE WASHINGTON • 4/15 VS. BROWN, HARVARD • 4/16 AT HARTWICK • 4/28-30 CWPA CHAMPIONSHIP • 5/12-14 NCAA TOURNAMENT

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speed



Post Modern



Allison Skaggs is smiling and holding up her left hand displaying a large silver ring with a blue block "M" in the center. Above the block "M" the writing reads "2016 CWPA" and below the block "M" reads "Champions."

Post Modern

The intent of postmodern discourse is to present an object as the main subject versus the author as the main subject. By transferring the qualities of an object to the subject, values and characteristics of the author will be represented, providing the audience with a better understanding of who the author is. I chose to have my championship ring represent an object that speaks for me, because it is an object that represents 12 years of hard work and dedication that I have put into the sport of water polo.

The ring is displayed on my middle finger, near the center of the photo, is accompanied by my smiling/excited expression in the background. When I put on the ring from the 2016 CWPA championship victory I feel proud and accomplished. It reflects the opportunity to represent my University in a positive way and reinforce the cultivation of a winning culture that I have contributed to for the Michigan Water Polo program. Being one of the leaders on the team I had the opportunity to design the ring, so certain aspects of the ring reflect my taste and personal touches. For example, on the side panel of the ring reads "Top 4," indicating that my team made Michigan program history with a final four finish at NCAAs. Promoting the success of my team through a lavish championship ring reinforces the improvement of recognition women are receiving for their athletic accomplishments. Women in sports is a topic that I am passionate about and is an important aspect of my identity because I have been involved in athletics for so long. Therefore, this ring serves as more than just an accessory, but a representation of my identity as a successful female student athlete.

Post Modern



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Skaggs Game-Winner Sends Water Polo to NCAA Semifinals