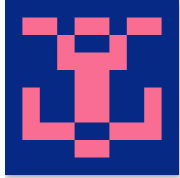


Fa11 Conversations on the Rhetoric of Gender & Sexuality

Class Blog for WRTG 3020 – Campus + Conted Sections – Fall 2011

Liberating Encounters



Author: [Hannah Brock](#)
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CATEGORY: * [FINAL DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROJECTS](#) *

TAGS: [personal narrative](#), [transgender](#)

PREVIEW:



(view full post to see embedded comic)

LINKS:

Liberating Encounters: [Part 1](http://Pixton.com/ic:q6mawo3a) (<http://Pixton.com/ic:q6mawo3a>)

Liberating Encounters: [Part 2](http://Pixton.com/ic:zivr8pwp) (<http://Pixton.com/ic:zivr8pwp>)

Liberating Encounters: [Part 3](http://Pixton.com/ic:g7rx4br7) (<http://Pixton.com/ic:g7rx4br7>)

RHETORICAL RATIONALE

Primary Audience

Liberating Encounters may resonate with other individuals who accept and want to learn about the queer lifestyle, but are not necessarily queer themselves. After reading my comic, I would hope that an individual looking to learn more about queer lifestyles would learn to ask more questions. Perhaps the unknowing individual may come across as ignorant, but honest interest and yearning to educate oneself at the expense of looking foolish holds more nobility than remaining silent. Initially, I had remained silent, afraid to ask my sister questions, but as I grew older I became more comfortable in my views and acknowledged my ignorance. I wanted to learn more and my sister understood and fed my curiosity openly.

Furthermore, my comic could also provide as a different perspective for queer individuals struggling to find acceptance within their family. My fear of offending my sister or her partners was the root of my silence. I was ignorant to the queer lifestyle and a bit uncomfortable due to my lack of knowledge. I may have even seemed unaccepting of the situation at times, but as soon as my sister began to comfortably explain her feelings and reasoning, I became comfortable too. It important to discuss these issues openly and rid of any negative stigma associated with them. Of course, not all family members will be accepting immediately, nor will some people want to learn, but openness is important when dealing with queer issues, whether it is the individual who wants to learn more, or whether it is the queer individual themselves.

Decisions

I initially had thought of doing an audio clip, but as I created my rough cut I found that most of my memories were more like still shots rather than short story clips. Most of my revelations about queer lifestyles came about through simple answers or acts that I carefully pieced together to create my understanding or what it means to be queer. I can even think back to the beginning when I was new to the idea of what it meant to be queer and finding myself asking silly, comical questions that a young naïve individual might ask. I was even a bit selfish, not thinking about what my sister wanted, but instead thinking only of what made me happy. Therefore, a comic was the best way to show the progression of time, include a little comedy, but remain informational and entertaining all at once.

Moreover, I have read several "coming of age" graphic novels that have really made an impression on me and I realized that I tend to think of my memories as pieces of a graphic novel. Even more, the graphic novel allows me to be personal, but not too personal. I was uncomfortable with photos and even speaking into a microphone. I knew I would have an issue with pausing and speaking too fast as I have been told numerous times. Therefore, the comic strip was ideal.

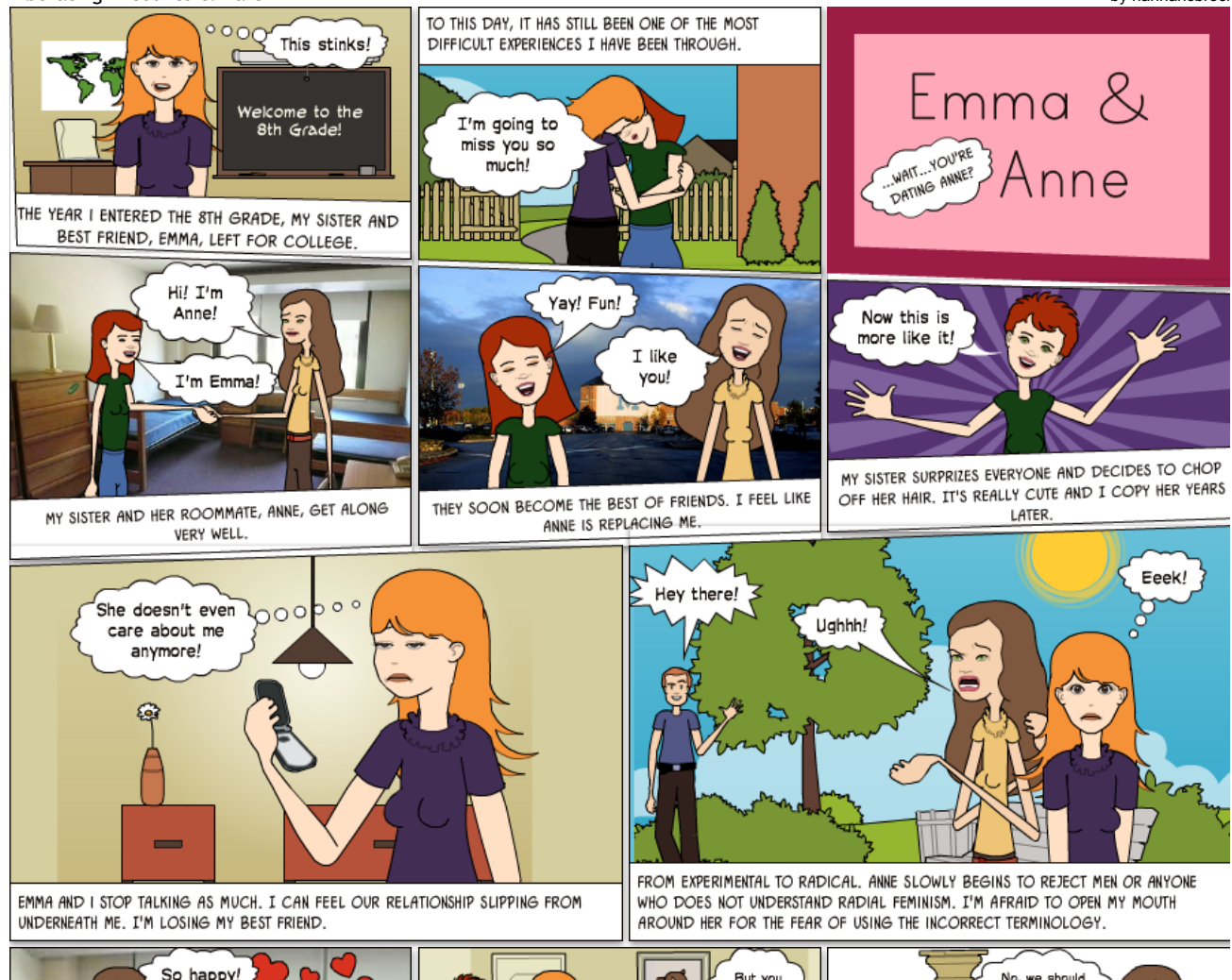
Demonstration

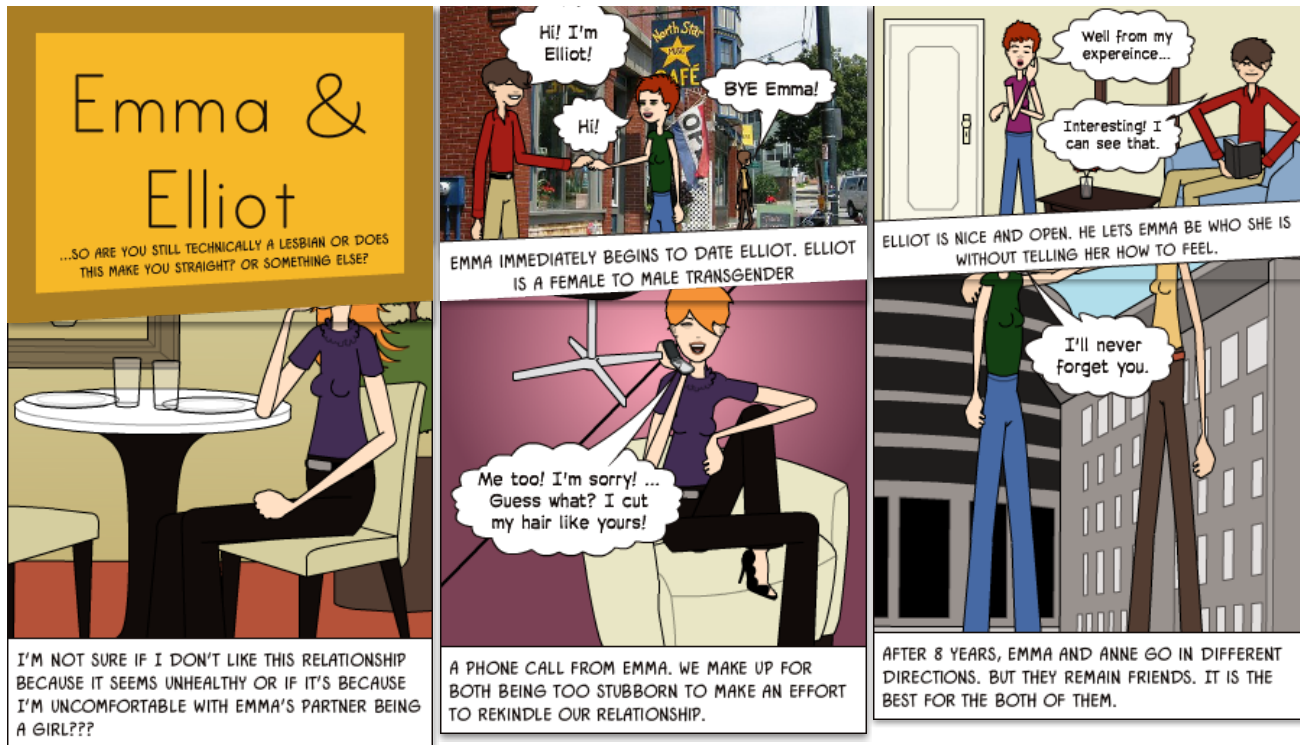
The comic idea allowed me to keep my thoughts brief, but interesting, as well as easy to read for the audience. I used simple language and included multiple forms of text that engage the reader. I divided my comic into three parts, all clearly labeled as the beginning of one of my sister's three significant relationships. I used active speech within the panels as well as a narrative along the top or bottom.

In addition to reading the story, the images of a comic strip allow the viewer to remain visually stimulated when text can become drab. I included a bit of drama to engage the reader and encourage them to read on. Likewise, I attempted to use comedy as another way of keeping the reader captivated.

Liberating Encounters: Part 1

by hannahbrock

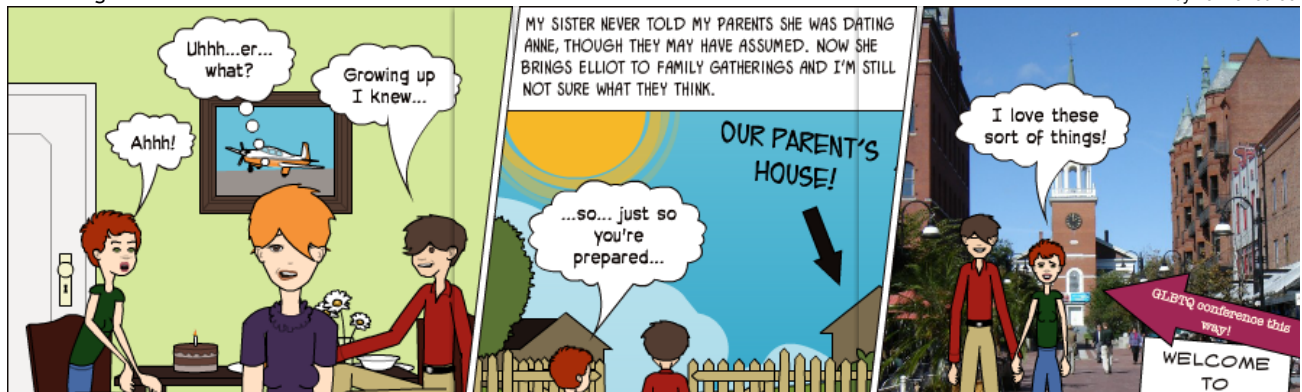


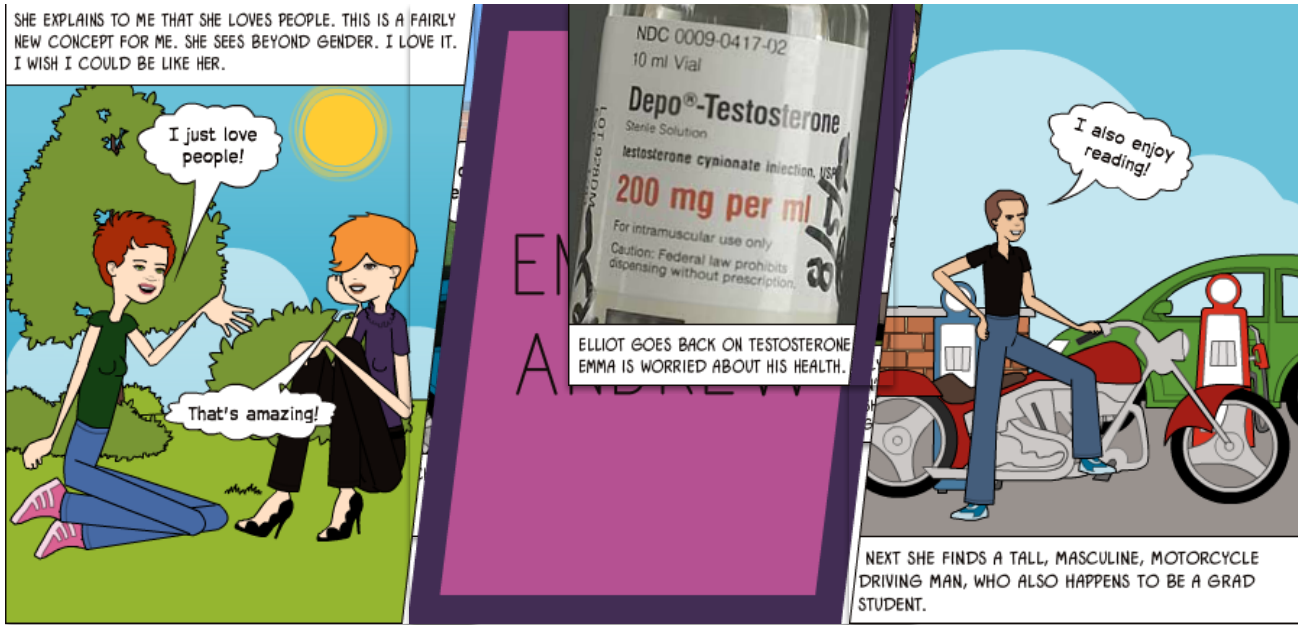


Liberating Encounters: Part 2

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by hannahbrock







2 RESPONSES TO LIBERATING ENCOUNTERS

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Elisabeth | [November 26, 2011 at 3:15 pm](#) | [Reply](#) |



In your comic, I liked the inclusion of some funny pictures and quotes. You did a great job lightening it without simplifying it, which is not an easy task, in my opinion.

In addition, I think it's really cool that you chose this topic because your experience and perspective as a sibling may be easier for some people to digest than the opinions of queer folks themselves.

Your sister's lucky to have a sister as open as you!

Michaela | [December 6, 2011 at 5:32 pm](#) | [Reply](#) |



I really liked the way that you separated each section like chapters in a book. It really broke up the story that had potential to be too long and really made it engaging to read and kept the story moving.