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EDUC254: Education in Film

Artist's Statement: "Clark Hats"

In a culture where we felt, as filmmakers and artists, that the world revolved around all the wrong things, we wanted to depict a film in which we turned the whole idea into satire. We all related to the character, "Kennedy" because we each encountered characters like her in high school. Her reasoning for wanting to embark on this journey of Clark Hats was only for the benefit of getting into a decent graduate school.

We wanted to bring attention to "achievement culture" in the educational workspace. This idea that students need to accomplish anything and everything to set themselves apart from other applications leads to a lack of caring for actual causes.

Our main character, Kennedy, was looking for an opportunity to increase her chances of getting into Yale or Harvard grad school, and therefore wanted to take over Clark Hats and initiate hat wearing policies to show the power she had on campus to "bring people together". Other characters in the story acted as alternate aspects of the same problem. People starting clubs to use school-sponsored money for their own benefit, or people running simply to be the president of a club. In general, we wanted this satirical piece to bring light to something that has the potential to be a real problem in schools. People are stretching themselves thin trying to be something they are not or participate in something they do not care about. This leaves no room for those who are quietly doing their best and practicing only the things that truly mean anything to them.