



# The Black Artist's Way

By Chisara Amanze, Rolner  
Benjamin, and mentor Dametria  
Selmore



# Abstract/ Introduction

- ★ The point of this research is to specifically display African American women that have enhanced their lives and the world around them through artistic expression.
- ★ The women currently included in this project are Toni Morrison, Billie Holiday, and Dorothy Dandridge.
- ★ Through our study of their pasts, we develop a cinematic project to help high school students view these women in a new light: one that properly emphasizes their greatness but also their humanity.

# Methods

- 1. We utilize different documentaries and interviews to study how we could essentially improve on our documentary.**
- 2. We pull pictures, video footage, dates, and quotes to add to our films.**
- 3. We then make a timeline of the order in which we would like to put the collected information in our film.**
- 4. We use premier pro to put the footage together**
- 5. Finally, we contact local Tallahassee high schools to air our footage for students to view.**

# Conclusion

- ★ We hope to use our mini documentaries to present to classrooms of high school students.
- ★ We want to academically influence and enhance their viewpoints of and appreciation of black women in fine arts.
- ★ We want students to essentially look at these women as multifaceted, talented, ambitious, characters of strength, yet also human.
- ★ We want them to align their stories and visions with that of modern-day black women.
- ★ This is to essentially inspire them to practice empathy but also appreciation. The black woman in fine arts is revolutionary yet human.

# Future Directions

- ★ There will be a couple of educational short films created for for students to learn the history and background of black female artistic expression in general and its portrayal throughout United States' history.
- ★ The videos will expose students to a historically rich background of the artists using their gifts and talents in their own defined measures of success.

# Acknowledgments

- ★ We would like to acknowledge our mentor Ms. Dee Selmore. Her vision and flexibility to allow us to authentically yet openly research and create has made this a very enjoyable space and project.
- ★ We would like to also thank our mothers and the many women in our family. They have essentially teach and inspire our creative route.s They give us the culture and the life to create; they continue to teach us the beauty in being black.
- ★ Finally, a special thank you to: Billie Holiday, Toni Morrison, and Dorothy Dandridge. Studying your successes and plights allows us to re-evaluate our own routes in fine arts and honor your legacies in a new light. You were not only creators but mothers, sisters, activist, and beautiful humans.



# Dorothy Dandridge

The star of *Carmen Jones*



# Billie Holiday

Lady Day and Louis  
Armstrong in *New  
Orleans*



# Toni Morrison Timeline

## Graduation

She graduated from Howard University

1953

## Award

Nobel Peace Prize in Literature

1993

## Family

Her 2nd son slade died of cancer

2010

1931

## Birth

Morrison was born in Lorrain, OH

1970

## First Novel

She published *The Bluest Eye*

2007

## Honor

A hometown elementary school named after her

2019

## Death

The beloved woman passed

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