



# The Omnipresence of Black Joy

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**Introduction**

- Welcome to “The Omnipresence of Black Joy” project. This project is a pilot study created by a Black woman, co-facilitated by Black women, and designed for all Black people.
- The pillars of this study include, Black Joy is a statement, a stride, permission, pride, a form of resistance, and rest.
- The act of Black Joy rejects the idea that Black individuals are prone to trauma, violence, and anger which has led to many negative stereotypes that are portrayed in the media. This is evident in the unequal dispersion of research done on Black trauma and pain compared to the research done on Black Joy.
- This project is centered around the understanding and cultivation of Black Joy within Black students at Florida State University. Our goal is to understand how Black Joy is subjectively felt throughout the communities we are a part of and bring the conversation of Black Joy into the light

**Methods**

- We began by compiling a database of literature reviews on Black Joy specifically in Black women.
- Our team of four research mentees wrote eight literature reviews in total that explored both peer-reviewed articles and non-peer-reviewed articles based on Black Joy experiences.
- We built our website by collaborating on the different aspects of the website’s color, pages, content, and posts.
- We composed an extended playlist full of music that we felt best embodied Black Joy. These extended playlists were set for three scheduled releases.
- Finally, we created and distributed surveys using the Qualtrics database surrounding Black Joy to students on Florida State University’s (FSU) campus.

**Abstract**

Often in the media and the news, Black people are painted in a negative light. This research project aims to redefine these negative stereotypes and offer positive narratives that are associated with Black people and Black Joy. To redefine the understanding of the Black experience, the researchers of this project first used the cumulative knowledge from academic-based literature reviews to create a website that disseminates research and stories of Black Joy. While using the Kujjima Theory of Collective Self-Motivation, this website plans to include surveys completed by Black students at Florida State University to better understand what Black Joy means to them. Finally, by synthesizing information from academic literature, people’s lived experiences, music, and the previously mentioned surveys, this project will be used to inform the development of a new curriculum used in public universities. This curriculum will be focused on Black Joy as a path to physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being.

**Discussion**

- This project has enlightened us to Black Joy within literature, the media, as well as at our own university. This has been a beautiful project for personal growth and academic growth. We are excited for the further expansion of this project.
- We found overwhelming themes of community, self-expression, resistance, and peace within these surveys.
- This information can also aid us with our Instagram presence, and the further updating of our website.



Figure 2: QR Code for the Blackkivate Joy CreateFSU website created under the Pen & Inc. Program.



Figure 3: Image of the survey.

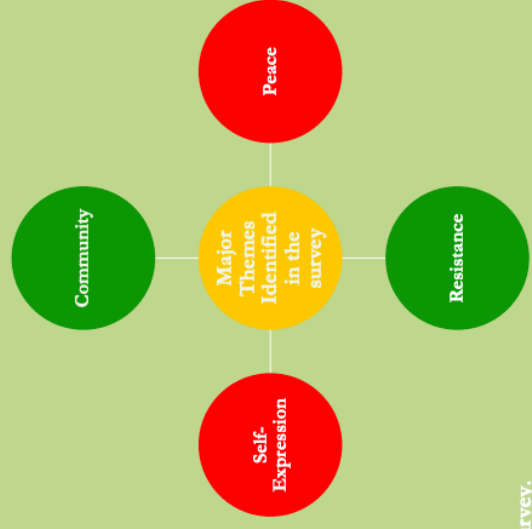


Figure 4: Themes identified in the survey.

**Results**

- As of February 24, 2023, the “The Omnipresence of Black Joy” pilot study received 63 responses from Black students at Florida State University. From these responses four strong themes emerged (Figure 4).
- Organizations to which this survey was distributed: NAACP, Black Student Union (BSU), InterVarsity Black Campus Ministries, SISTUHS Inc., and PBM Inc.

**References**

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Bakare-Yusuf, B. (2005). I love myself when I am dancing and carrying on: Refiguring the agency of Black women’s creative expression in Jamaican Dancehall culture. *International Journal of Media and Cultural Politics*, 1(3), 263–276. <https://doi.org/10.1386/macp.1.3.263/1>

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Figure 1: Kujjima Label