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Section Introduction: Angles

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ANGLES

Too often we listen to a class lecture, participate in a conversation, or watch the news without ever asking whose voices are missing. We are so invested in our private lives and our own personal issues, we sometimes forget about the obstacles that people around us face. The authors in this section remind us how important perspective is by encouraging us to take a step back and see the world from a different angle.

The pieces present topics and perspectives that we may not normally consider. They challenge problematic ways of understanding the world in which we live.

In the aftermath of the most recent election, our country is currently in the midst of change. There is a greater need to acknowledge differing opinions and cultures comprising our country. The message in these pieces is to embrace new perspectives so that

we may create a stronger societal foundation on which to stand.

In the opening piece, “‘Okay, Sorry,’ with Dr. L’Pree,” Julie Hikari Mebane interviews Syracuse University Newhouse professor Dr. Charisse L’Pree about her experience teaching in higher education as a woman of color. Through the interview, Dr. L’Pree demonstrates what protest looks like in a non-traditional way. Activism isn’t necessarily something people go out and do on particular days, but instead it’s something that can happen as soon as the alarm clock goes off in the morning.

Charlotte Oestrich inspires us to reflect on our intentions before jumping to conclusions. In “The Scientist: Hero or Villain?” she contemplates the scientist as a rhetorical being, instead of seeing him or her as the crazed and white-coated fanatic often de-

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picted in popular culture.

In “Scientific Racism: The Exploitation of African Americans,” Aqilah Elshabazz-Palmer, exposes us to a dark side of scientific research driven by racist ideology. She encourages us to dig deeper and remain curious about issues that are largely ignored.

In her contribution, Richelle Gewertz challenges the strict gender binaries and teaches us the need for an inclusive gender neutral pronoun in the English language through a series of advertisements. Without correct language, people are excluded from dialogue, hindering those whose voices need to be heard.

Finally, the section ends with “Ignore Me,” a thought-provoking piece by veteran Ginger Star Peterman. Writing from the perspective of her service dog, Puma, Peterman exposes us to the daily life of a service

animal, reminding us that Puma should not be treated in the same way as a house pet.

While in the midst of change in our country, it’s important to think about those around us. It doesn’t matter if they share similar opinions, beliefs, customs, or ideas. Differences over policy, immigration, race, class, and gender differentiate us and yet, we all just want to find our place, a place to call home. This isn’t a call to action. It’s a call to empathy.

Whether it’s learning to step outside the box or approaching the world from a new angle, these contributors shed light on issues that are often misunderstood. In stepping out of our comfort zone, we allow others to step a little closer to their own.

—Kathryn Kawasoe, Brandon Mixson,
Sakura Tomizawa, and Abigail Welles