

# PERSONAL STATEMENT

EDITORS' CHOICE IN NONFICTION | demee williams

**M**y motivation behind writing "Room 8" was constructed through taking a creative nonfiction English course with Professor Peter Chilson last year. Coincidentally, I was also enrolled in Biology 315 Human Anatomy for my degree. Chilson encouraged us throughout the semester to write about subjects we could thoroughly research or experience firsthand. At that point, my life was consumed by anatomy because it is a very time consuming and mentally demanding class. In concurrence, I debated putting that devotion to use by linking the two courses together to my advantage; by recalling my experiences of observing the cadavers we have here on campus. Chilson encouraged me on this venture because it was a subject that only a small fraction of students are actually able to experience. Thus, with my physical encounters of the lab portion of Biology 315, along with my recollections from past experiences relating to the subject material, I merely described my own personal journey of the course, complementing self reflections and memories to gain an insight to my thought process as the semester developed.

Although this piece is factual to my best recollection, I have made minor changes to protect my subjects. Overall, I wanted the reader to understand that these experiences and recollections were very personal and from my own point of view, and thus do not necessarily reflect the class as a whole. My only conviction in writing this piece was to put politics and conscience aside and for my own sanity pour myself into a story that I felt needed to be told.