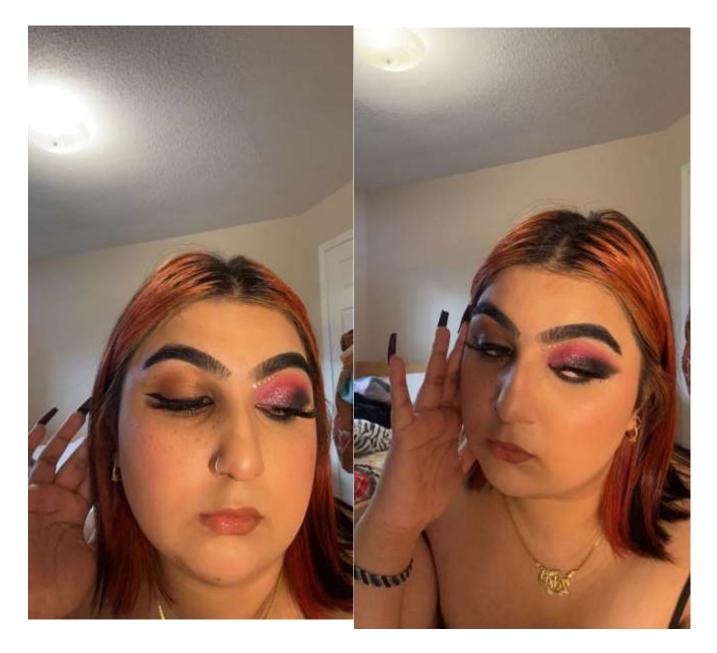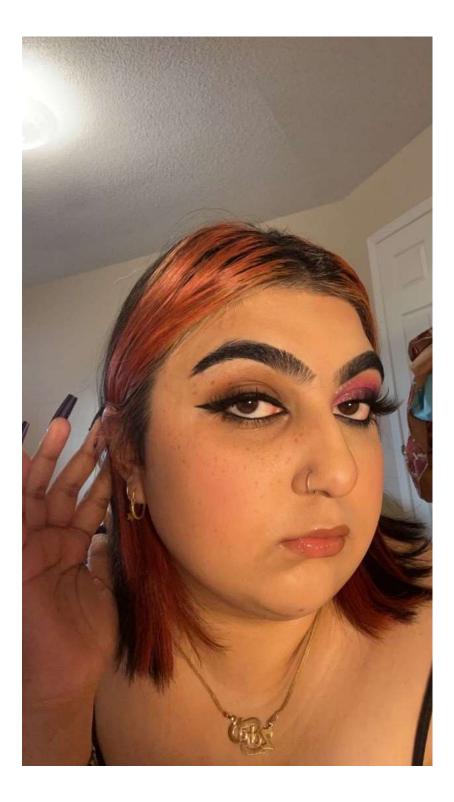The sociological imagination is the idea that we, as individual, are influenced by the society around us–it is the ability to look past one's personal experiences and understand/realize that social forces shape us and the world around us (Barr et al., 2021). My creative piece of a split made-up face perfectly represents the sociological imagination. I split my face in half using make up to depict how I present myself based on the environment I am in, and the people I am surrounded by, In doing this, I use make up to represent how my appearance is heavily influenced by the society around me. The more "basic" and light makeup shows how I would present myself at a family function, or when I go back home, to Pakistan, where they have more conservative and religious views. Traditionally and hegemonically, the society believes that you should not stand out because that means there will be more eyes on you.

Growing up as a Muslim woman, I have been taught to carry myself in certain ways, to not gain the attention of others, especially men. It is because of my upbringing and the influences of family and the environment of Pakistan that I feel uneasy and uncomfortable being bolder and wearing more colourful clothing and makeup around family and when I visit back home. In contrast, the other side of my made-up face, which has more colourful and bolder makeup, represents how I have been influenced by my school settings. This look would be how I would present myself outside of the home and family. It started in high school, a time in your life when you finally have a chance to figure out who you are outside of your family, with heavy influence from your peers and teachers. The biggest influence, however, is when I started college.

Especially now going to the arts campus at Sheridan, and being in an artistic program, the way I carry myself here is drastically different. Here, it is the norm to "stand out," to be bold, creative, and colourful. Being in a makeup program, there is that feeling, an almost unspoken rule, that you must occasionally attend classes looking extra presentable and all done up to almost prove that you belong, right where you are. This is the societal norms and culture, and I am well

aware that this new environment has shaped me to be more creative, to think outside of the box, and to *want* to standout every now and then. Both sides are who I am in different ways, and it is because of the different societies I have been and lived in, that I am who I am today.

References

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