I guess the primary assumption that I had going in was I felt that you know the relationship between producer and consumer was very one-sided. Like it was you know the producer is employing all of these tactics and the consumer is kind of mindlessly spending all of this money. And I see people with hundreds of dollars of groceries every shift. And as I researched, I realized that you know there is some truth to that but the
relationship is a little more, it's a little more mutually beneficial in that sense you know. There is this duality between producer and consumer. And if I hadn't really researched further and kind of moved away from my own observations I don't think I would have ever really grasped that second part of it. The latter is so essential to my thesis. I guess it ties back again into my experience being a Filipino. Poverty and food insecurity
and in my experience of what

I've seen firsthand and with my

neighbors in the Philippines, there

was that high correlation. And then I saw

that here too in America. But that really

wasn't satisfying enough answer for me.

You know one can't just be hungry

because they're poor. Nor one can't

just be poor because they're hungry. I

really was thinking there must be something

special about the relationship

between the two that that makes it so
pervasive and almost universal. I wasn't satisfied with just if then than that.

And I also really wasn't satisfied with the idea that some people assume that this is a problem that's cordoned off in some far-off corner of the globe.

It doesn't pertain to us because we are an advanced nation, or we are a more rich nation. Or it doesn't apply to us because our history has been different. Clearly after looking at it a little bit after researching it, I found that's
not exactly the case. So really the

assumption was there must be something

concrete there. There must be something

more to it. And I guess I was a bit

desperate for that because once you find

a concrete cause you ground the problem

in something. You put it in the same

plane as us. And that way if you can give

a problem a cause you can just then

afterwards start giving it a solution.

I was kind of assuming going in that there

would at least be a little bit of like a
positive mindset in relation to politics

and social media. I mean I was kind of hoping there'd be something. I know being a student I hear a lot you know all these negative things that social media is doing how it's impacting us all these different terrible things that come out

it does have some benefits. And I was kind of hoping going in and I find some.

And the whole like idea that I had I almost had this kind of drive to find
something that would say look it's not

you know this terrible object like it's

actually kind of beneficial. I was

realizing that my assumption that a lot

of people don't see it that way was like

kind of solidified as I was doing

research which was really interesting.

I assumed it was a very bipartisan issue.

I thought the Democrats would probably

support it a lot more. And then I did my

research and the first huge bit of

legislation I found came from Texas.
Texas in New York actually have the best rape kit reform laws in the United States. That was fascinating to me and then also when I interviewed Representative Paul Baumbach, who is a Democrat, he talked to me about how everyone in our legislature had worked together on a budget bill for this in Delaware. How it wasn't that divided of an issue. I had just hated that I assumed that about... That because of their political affiliation they could
not be as worried about this as I am. And

as soon as I went in my research

that changed.