

Norhan Ahmed
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Artist Statement:

For my project I decided to write a personal poem that focuses on the issue of race/ethnicity in 19th century Brooklyn. My poem focuses on the struggles and discrimination that groups of people like the Jews and Irish faced as they settled into Brooklyn.

I will also write about how Gabriel Furman exposed the historical weaknesses of the Jews and Irish by talking about the oppressed condemned pasts in his journals. This is important because according to Furman's work, a reader understands that the circumstances that these immigrants came to escape were important in developing Furman's opinion of them. Growing up in a racist society in the 19th century, made Gabriel less tolerant towards other people's differences.

Being accepted was an important issue in the 19th century as well. This is why in addition to the other issues I will be focusing on I chose to tie it together with the bigger picture. Not only did Gabriel live in a less tolerant society, but also even today in the U.S. it's still certainly difficult for immigrants to find their voice in this country and be accepted. The more different a group of people were, the more targeted they were for unnecessary hate and criticism, just like the Jews and Irish once had to face in the past.