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Process Note on "To Bear in Silence: How the Erasure of 'Comfort Women' in Taiwan Leads to the Dismissal of their Tragedy"

Sofia Monteleone
Denison University

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Process Note
Sofia Monteleone

This piece was originally written for Dr. Sokolsky's "Taiwanese Women's Literature/Taiwan Women's World" class. When researching to find topics for our final paper, I came across Margaret Mitsutani's article "Fifty Years of Silence." This article became the cornerstone of my paper, and I branched my research off in order to find out more about Taiwanese "comfort women" and connect them to the theory of women's identity that we had been studying in the context of Taiwanese history and culture. I really wanted to focus on the idea of women's voices and expressions, and how they can be silenced through a variety of factors. I almost couldn't believe that the issue of "comfort women" was something so many people, including myself, knew so little about, and I wanted to dive into the systematic reasons as to why that was. This influenced my research, and led me to tackle issues that on the surface seem unrelated to Taiwanese "comfort women," such as the Taiwanese education system under Japanese colonialism and Korean "comfort women." When revising this draft, my key focus was clarity and accessibility. I have the tendency to be very long-winded, which can often isolate or lose my reader in unnecessary detail or summary. Structurally, this results in very long paragraphs which slowed down the pacing. Throughout the revision, I broke down topics into more manageable paragraphs and condensed essential details to create a smoother pace. I hope this easier flow of information elevates the content of the paper and allows for a compelling read.