Title of Paper: The Best Paper Ever

Author: Jane Doe, Doctoral Candidate

Affiliation: Texas Tech University (Department Name)

Contact: Mailing Address: 1234 Main Street, Lubbock, TX 12345
         Phone: (806) 123 – 4567
         Email: jane.doe@ttu.edu

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Abstract (100-250 words)

In a country that upholds democratic values, the notion of equality lies at the core of its fundamental beliefs. It is, therefore, important to allow all voices to be heard, including the voices of individuals who often live closeted lives. Many LGBTTQ people still live closeted lives and hide their true identity from friends, family, and strangers. Some of these closeted individuals live in rural and non-metropolitan areas and have limited access to material that reflects their lives; this is partly due to the fact that very few documents exist that focus on LGBTTQ lives in rural and non-metropolitan areas. This work adds to LGBTTQ history by documenting drag culture in Lubbock, Texas. Research on drag queens has been conducted throughout the world, more specifically, drag queens that perform in metropolitan areas. Also, a number of studies have focused on the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, and queer (LGBTTQ) in rural areas. This work attempts to bridge the gap between current research on drag queens in metropolitan areas and the lives of LGBTTQ individuals living in rural locations—like Lubbock. This research focuses on recording the oral histories of three drag queens that have performed or are performing in Lubbock.

Summary (80-90 words)

In a country that upholds democratic values, the notion of equality lies at the core of its fundamental beliefs. It is, therefore, important to allow all voices to be heard, including the voices of individuals who often live closeted lives. Many LGBTTQ people still live closeted lives and hide their true identity from friends, family, and strangers. This work attempts to bridge the gap between current research on drag queens in metropolitan areas and the lives of LGBTTQ individuals living in rural locations—like Lubbock. This research focuses on recording the oral histories of three drag queens that have performed or are performing in Lubbock.