

Article of the Week #20

1. Code and annotate text, even identify figurative language.
2. Show evidence of a close-read. Write in the margins. Talk back!
3. Complete the Extension Section.

All article of the week were developed using strategies created by Kelly Gallagher.

Top YouTube makeup artist NikkieTutorials reveals she's transgender

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff 01/21/2020



Nikkie de Jager at a makeup event on September 7, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. Photo by: Presley Ann/Getty Images for Sephora

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1. Fans of popular YouTuber and makeup artist Nikkie de Jager were surprised by one of her recent videos. The video she posted had nothing to do with makeup.
2. De Jager is better known by her YouTube username, NikkieTutorials, to her 12 million YouTube subscribers. On January 13, she revealed in a video that she's a transgender woman and by January 14, the video was the most-watched video on YouTube and was quickly approaching 20 million views.
3. To identify as transgender means that one's gender identity does not match the sex they were assigned at birth.
4. De Jager said she decided to share her gender identity after people threatened to sell her story to the media for money. This is a disrespectful and harmful thing to do to someone. Announcing her transgender identity on her own terms was a way for de Jager to take back her power, she said.
5. "It feels good to finally do it. It is time to let go and be truly free," she said with her palms pressed together and glittery nails pointing toward the camera.
6. She was labeled male at birth but she has always felt like a woman. "When I was younger, I was born in the wrong body — which means that I am transgender," she said.

De Jager Has Been Transitioning For Years

7. De Jager uploaded her first video nearly 12 years ago and since then, she has gathered a huge following of makeup lovers and artists. They watch her videos for tips on how to perfect skills, reviews on new products and to marvel at her makeup artistry. Her passion for makeup has led to joint projects with top makeup brands such as Too Faced and Ofra. It has also given her opportunities to create videos with famous makeup artists.

8. Her accomplishments were all achieved without any questions about her identity as a woman, which she said was an intentional choice.
9. "I always wanted to live in a world where I saw myself as me, as a woman, as a boss lady," she said in her video.
10. The YouTube star has been transitioning into the woman she is for years.
11. "Ever since I was born I always thought that I was a girl," she said, explaining her fondness for toys and styles of dress associated with little girls. "All of me was girly," she said.
12. De Jager said that she was already dressing and styling herself as a girl around age 7. By age 14, with support from her mother and teachers, she was taking medication to help her transition. By 19, she was "fully transitioned," she said. Transitioning is the process of changing the way you look and how people see and treat you so that you become the gender you feel on the inside.

Forced To Share Her News

13. De Jager is from the Netherlands, a country in northern Europe. The Netherlands is a global leader on LGBTQ rights and was the first country to allow transgender people to openly serve in its armed forces in 1974. It also became the first country to legalize same-sex marriage in 2001.
14. Much of de Jager's change happened in front of fans who had no idea it was happening. "I transitioned while on YouTube," she said.
15. De Jager said she always wanted to share her transgender experience but being threatened forced her to share sooner than she had wanted.
16. "It was frightening to know there are people out there who are so evil that they can't respect someone's true identity," she said.
17. This news doesn't change anything about her, she said, but she did express worry about how people would receive her announcement.
18. De Jager's video has received mostly praise from the beauty influencer community. Another makeup expert, Nikita Dragun, has documented her makeup skills and gender transition on YouTube. She said she was so emotionally affected by the video that she cried.

"You're Still Seeing The Same Nikkie"

19. Julie Vu is a Canadian YouTuber known by her username PrincessJules who has also detailed her transition online. She made a video expressing shock and pride in de Jager's decision to share something personal.
20. Vu, a makeup devotee, said she could relate to being outed by others. She talked about her own experience of being identified as transgender in dance clubs. She also scolded the people who pressured de Jager to share her transgender identity.
21. "Transgender people get killed all the time for being themselves," Vu said. "When you out somebody, you put their life in danger. And that is not OK. Someone's life is not a joke."

22. At least 22 transgender or gender-nonconforming people were killed last year in the United States, according to the Human Rights Campaign.
23. De Jager said she hoped that her public acknowledgment of her transgender experience will help people. She hopes to help younger children who might also feel out of place or not like who they truly are.
24. "I don't know if people are going to hate me or accept me," she said. "All I know is that I haven't changed. You're still seeing the same Nikkie now."

Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases.

1. How did De Jager's video affect other makeup and beauty influencers? _____

2. Define **Transitioning** as used in the text. _____

3. Why did De Jager decide to share her gender identity? _____

4. When did The Netherlands legalize same-sex marriage? _____
5. According to the article, which makeup companies have been involved with joint projects with De Jager? _____

Extension Section: Summarize this article using a one sentence money summary format. (You have \$2 to spend, and words cost 10 cents. (“A, an, the” are free))
