



Syra is a Puerto Rican senior studying History and English with a Concentration in Creative Writing. At Penn, she has particularly been interested in studying colonization through the lens of sexuality. She has been writing poetry since she was five years old and was recruited to the university through the Kelly Writers House. For most of her time at Penn, Syra has been a barista and stocking associate at Williams Cafe, a member of the Philomathean Society, the Events Chair for the Vagina Monologues, and a founding member of the Civic Scholars Advisory Board. She is passionate about the intersection between the arts and education. She has worked with faculty in Penn's writing programs in community outreach, and hopes to pursue work in this field. She is scared about graduating, but also excited about what comes next.

CAPSTONE PROJECT

CREATING AND CONVERGING ALTERNATIVE ACTIVIST SPACES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Faculty Advisor:

*Professor Lorene Cary, Senior Lecturer, School of Arts and Sciences,
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This capstone project seeks to synthesize and connect different campus efforts of activism by creating two new campus organizations, Penn Resist and Penn We Are Watching. In all, both groups will exist at Penn as points of convergence to facilitate activism: one wider campus activism in relation to the political contemporary climate and another to work with sexual assault prevention initiatives on campus through the Penn Women's Center as well as campus activism in general. In particular, this capstone aims to center indigenous peoples, people of color, trans people and gender nonconforming individuals in campus activism by creating a space for student voices and student leaders to come together to share initiatives, support each other, and bring bodies to campus activism. There is also an emphasis in guiding people on how to be allies to different identities and causes. Just as well, there is a focus on connecting Philadelphia organizations with Penn students so we as a group can recognize and support the work that they have been doing for decades. In all, the aim is to establish initiatives/protests, support each other's activist work, and centering marginalized voices in campus activism. There is also finally a desire to create effective policy influence through helping Philadelphia organizations and also engaging Penn students in political efforts.