

Safe Space

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only.”

-Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities

It is safe to say that in light of the results of the most recent election, the majority of people are shocked. America has come so far over the past few years. In the case of Obergefell v. Hodges (2015), the Supreme Court ruled that the fundamental right to marry is guaranteed to same-sex couples by the Fourteenth Amendment. Therefore, all states must now allow same-sex marriage. The Black Lives Matter movement has successfully brought police brutality against minorities to light and banded communities together to promote increased awareness of the blatant injustice, more self-love for individuality, and additional pride in the color of their skin. Also, in the past few years, multiple waves of feminism have swept the nation in all forms. In pop culture, countless musical artists, models and actresses like Beyoncé and Rihanna, Kendall Jenner and Kim Kardashian, and Lena Dunham and Emma Watson have all promoted girl power. Feminism has taken social media by storm with the #FreeTheNipple movement to grant women the right to breastfeed their children in public and the “#EffYourBeautyStandards” movement encouraging girls to accept and love their bodies rather than comparing them to Photoshopped models in magazines or airbrushed actresses in movies.

The country's recent years have been open-minded, inclusive, and progressive. Unfortunately, these important movements may take a turn for the worst with the election of Mr. Trump. Now try to grasp this: in one swift night, the safety and sense of security of all of these people have been shattered, from those who are openly and actively a part of the LGBT community, to civilians of color walking on sidewalks on their way home at night, to the countless women who don't want to be publicly groped or attacked with sexist “locker room talk.” All of these hopeful Americans now have their safety and sense of security brought into serious questioning again despite all the work this country has done under President Obama the past eight years. America, once so progressive and inclusive, may take a turn for the worse. Millions are frightened about what catastrophic outcomes may arise after the presidential election. What they need now more than ever is somewhere they can truly calm down and relieve themselves from the chaotic reality. Now more than ever, it's important to find a safe space.

As safe spaces begin to dwindle and become more essential, we had the opportunity to ask some Northeastern students where they found their safe spaces here on campus:



“Centennial on a good day”



"By the fountain"



"The colorful chairs near the pond"



"Snell after a long day"



"Amongst the maze on the fourth floor"



"Chicken Lou's"



"Anywhere with unlimited comfort food and a movie"



"The safe space in Ell"



"Under my bed with music and my coloring book"



"In the arms of a friend...and a PSL"



"In bed with me, myself, and Kirby"



"In the presence of Someone greater"