Proposal Emily Riesner

My research project focuses on lesbian identity, especially how it's changed from prehistory, to the AIDS epidemic, to now. I want the website to act as an interactive archive that mixes history, theory, and personal stories to show how lesbian identity has built community and reshaped ideas of femininity. It will include historical photos, sections about the history of lesbian rights, and reflections on more current topics that often get oversimplified on social media and online. My goal for the site is to show the beauty of the "in-between" when it comes to identity and to make people think about how community can exist outside of traditional gender and power structures.

For the user experience design, I want the way people move through the site to reflect the meaning behind it. The color palette will come from the muted lesbian flag, and I'm thinking the cursor could turn into a small Venus symbol as a subtle detail. The layout will follow Gestalt design ideas so that everything feels connected instead of broken up into random sections. I plan to include pages like Home, History, Social Connections, Contemporary Conversations, and Community, all linked in a way that feels circular and fluid rather than linear. Overall, I want the site to feel thoughtful and reflective, something that celebrates lesbian identity while still being easy to navigate and interesting to explore.