




Mask	Participant Narrative
	<p>“My mask shows how a brain injury like mine is invisible. When I get a scratch, you know I have a scratch. When I bump my head and forget everything, you wouldn’t know. I care a lot about the way I look, so if I look fine people assume I feel fine; this is not true. I have a lot of headaches when it feels like my head is on fire, I am always tired and my memory is foggy. Even though all this is going on, I look like any other teenager. Looking normal and happy is not the same as feeling normal and happy. I hope the message shows through my mask.”</p>
	<p>“GREEN represents the areas of the brain that were damaged. PURPLE on the left eye because that too was affected. RED on the right cheek and lips to represent the blood that I vividly remember during the time I was conscious. Notably seen is a PURPLE STAR in the center of the forehead which was hit at that time. YELLOW was used to depict the parts that remained undamaged.”</p>
	<p>“My mask has bars on it because I feel trapped. The bars are supposed to represent that I feel like I am in a prison wanting to be FREE. It just feels like everyone is telling me what I can and can’t do. My mask also has a four leaf clover on it to show how lucky I am. It could have been a lot worse and I might not even be alive. So I have a lot to be grateful for.”</p>



“The right side is dark and represents the confusion I felt when I woke up in the hospital with no memory of the previous three weeks. I was SCARED and FELT ALONE until my family arrived. The brighter side is me cheering up, knowing my guardian was watching over me. The red lightening bolt represents the brain injury. The Silver around the edge is the reminder that THERE IS A SILVER LINING even though it may not feel like it right now.”



“The left side shows the bad of my injury, confusion, anger, anxiety, fatigue. The additional eye is for the double vision, the megaphone is when I get angry and yell at people, and then handicap status. The black is the damaged brain, where it feels empty... the right side is things that make my brain happy, I mean jump up and down happy. Music, hummingbirds, dog mountains, trees, flowers, meadows. Nature... And as always, DON'T TEXT AND DRIVE!”



“The color is purple and... gives you a rough idea of the line at which my skull was fractured. It's also the color of bruising as my head went through incredible trauma. You can see mountains, as this was the beginning of a very dark time in my life. Next you see a bright orange with a spread of outlines of trees. This is a wildfire; a wildfire named spinal cord injury and TBI. These two injuries together wiped away nearly all my physical abilities, mental abilities were also damaged and altered. Each of those trees represents something that was taken away from me. Next, you see a thick green area. This was meant to represent a forest. A thick forest that can make it difficult to see through and what I have traveled through after my injury. Finally, you can see a desert landscape where a cactus musters up what it must and somewhat gets water it needs to survive. In the background you can see mountains, these represent what I have yet to traverse and conquer...”