People on campus that are often stereotyped to be rich, dishonest, and unknowledgeable are women in sororities. In today’s society, being a member of Greek life is often looked at very negatively. Without the knowledge of truly knowing what it’s like to be a member of a sorority, most will assume the stereotypes are true. However, the University archive that I analyzed shows that women in sororities defy these stereotypes.

While opening a 20 year old scrapbook, I wasn’t sure what to expect. The Illini blue, leather cover was inscribed with the orange words “The Panhellenic Council” and the first page was a letter to the reader. The thesis of the artifact is shown to the reader on the first page. Part of it reads, “**We as Undergraduate members** of women’s fraternities, stand for good scholarship, for guarding of good health, for maintenance of fine standards, and for service to the thefts of our ability, our college community. **We as Fraternity Women**, stand for service through the development of character inspired by the close contact and deep friendship of individual fraternity and Panhellenic life.” (Panhellenic Scrapbook) There is a lot more depth that lies within the Panhellenic Council and Greek life that from the outside looking in gets lost in all the rumors and stereotypes. The opening paragraph thesis clearly explains the goal Panhel has for the women in the undergraduate community and as Fraternity women. They continue to support their claim by stating that fraternity women strive to live through helpfulness and mutual respect to
others. Proving the importance of this claim, the thesis is the very first thing you see when opening the book. Before the reader got to any of the pictures, the Panhellenic Council wanted to make it obvious what Greek Life truly stood for.

After the opening paragraphs, the scrap book continues with a page assigned to each sorority on campus. The individual pages include different pictures, words, phrases, and events that describe positive aspects of that chapter. For example, on the Delta Gamma page, there is a picture of a group of girls working on one of their philanthropy events. This sorority portrayed several warrants through pictures of the sorority interacting with each other, and with the community. On another page, Kappa Kappa Gamma kept it simple and pasted several pictures and words about their sorority. These warrants include words like loyalty, friendship, and sisterhood. All are positive characteristics that would give the reader a strong and approving viewpoint of Greek life. Other chapter pages include pictures from sisterhood events, social exchanges with fraternities, and formals. There was a wide range of different characteristics of what it’s like to be a member of a sorority. Exemplifying sisterhood and charity are two very positive aspects of these groups of girls. If someone were to look through this book without knowing a single thing about Greek life, they would close the book with an overall positive attitude toward the Panhellenic Council. The main point of the scrap book is so strong that the Panhellenic Council never used a qualifier. The thesis was supported throughout each and every page. However, because of the lack of sentences and descriptions, the writer never used backing. Some people might view having “socials and exchanges” negatively, but that’s just one viewpoint the author neglected to back.
This book relates to me in a very personal way because I am a part of the Greek Life. As an active member in Alpha Phi, I see the positive side to Greek life that the author is conveying. As a member of Greek Life, constantly hearing how negatively people view my friends, my sorority, and the Panhellenic Council as a whole can be very upsetting. I don’t see the side that other people might think we are. The stereotype of a bunch of rich girls who pay for her friends. The stereotype of unintelligent women who spend more time partying than working at school. That stereotype is not true. It’s not true because there are girls in my house who are at this school on loans and are barely able to pay for their sorority bills. It’s not true because we spend hours together at the house studying and motivating each other to get all of our work done. Its not true because we spend hours razing money and holding philanthropy events for women’s cardiac care and cystic fibrosis. The judgment and harsh opinions that outsiders make towards Greek life isn't fair because they don’t know what actually goes on. The actual meaning of service, philanthropy, scholarship, and good character is evident in sorority members’ every day lives.

The end of the scrap book contains clippings of newspaper articles that were published about sororities. Headlines like “Sorority sponsors McDonald charity” and “Teps' Softball Tournament to Help Leukemia Research” are just a couple examples of what was making the news. If the reader objected to what was said about Philanthropy on the first page of the scrapbook, the Author provided rebuttal by showing the newspaper articles. There’s no greater proof than facts about actions that have been completed. The newspaper articles prove that charity is occurring and is benefiting the public. Other warrants on these last view pages include stickers of the words philanthropy, awards, greek news, and fun. Showing the viewer of this
scrap book the recognition that sororities are receiving was the final warrant that was used to support the thesis. The reader started off with the main point of the book, continued to look through pictures of the different sororities and the positive aspects of them, and then finished with how Greek life is public.

Overall, sororities tend to get looked at negatively and judged. The point of this artifact wasn’t to have the viewer look through cute sorority pictures, but a way to prove there is more to that lifestyle than one would think. Warrants and support weren’t shown through sentences but pictures, positive words, and real life events. This may be just one artifact from 1995, but it’s a start to chaining societies false assumptions of “sorority girls.”
Works Cited