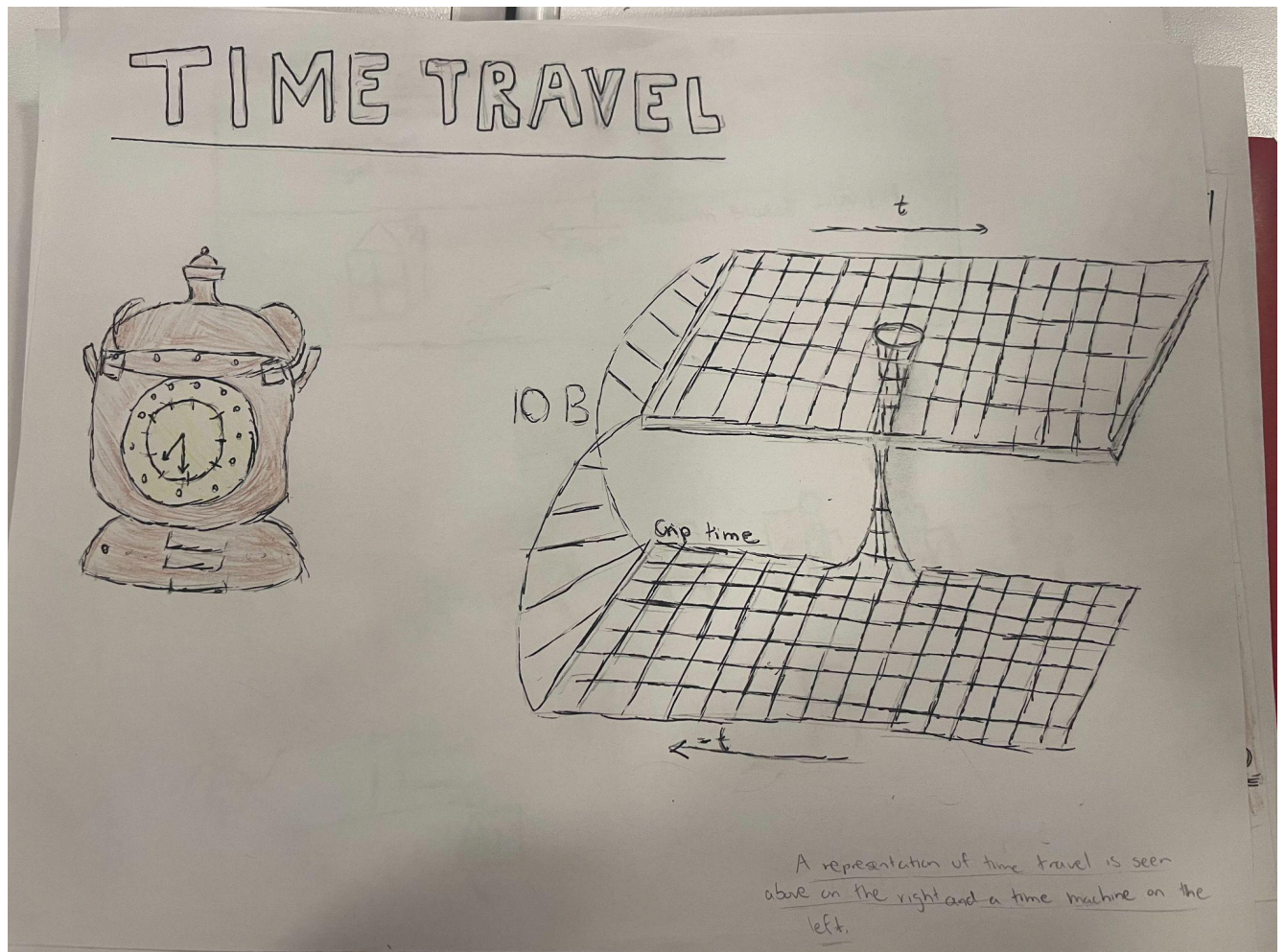


Illustrations of the Representations of Crip Time Inspired by Ellen Samuels

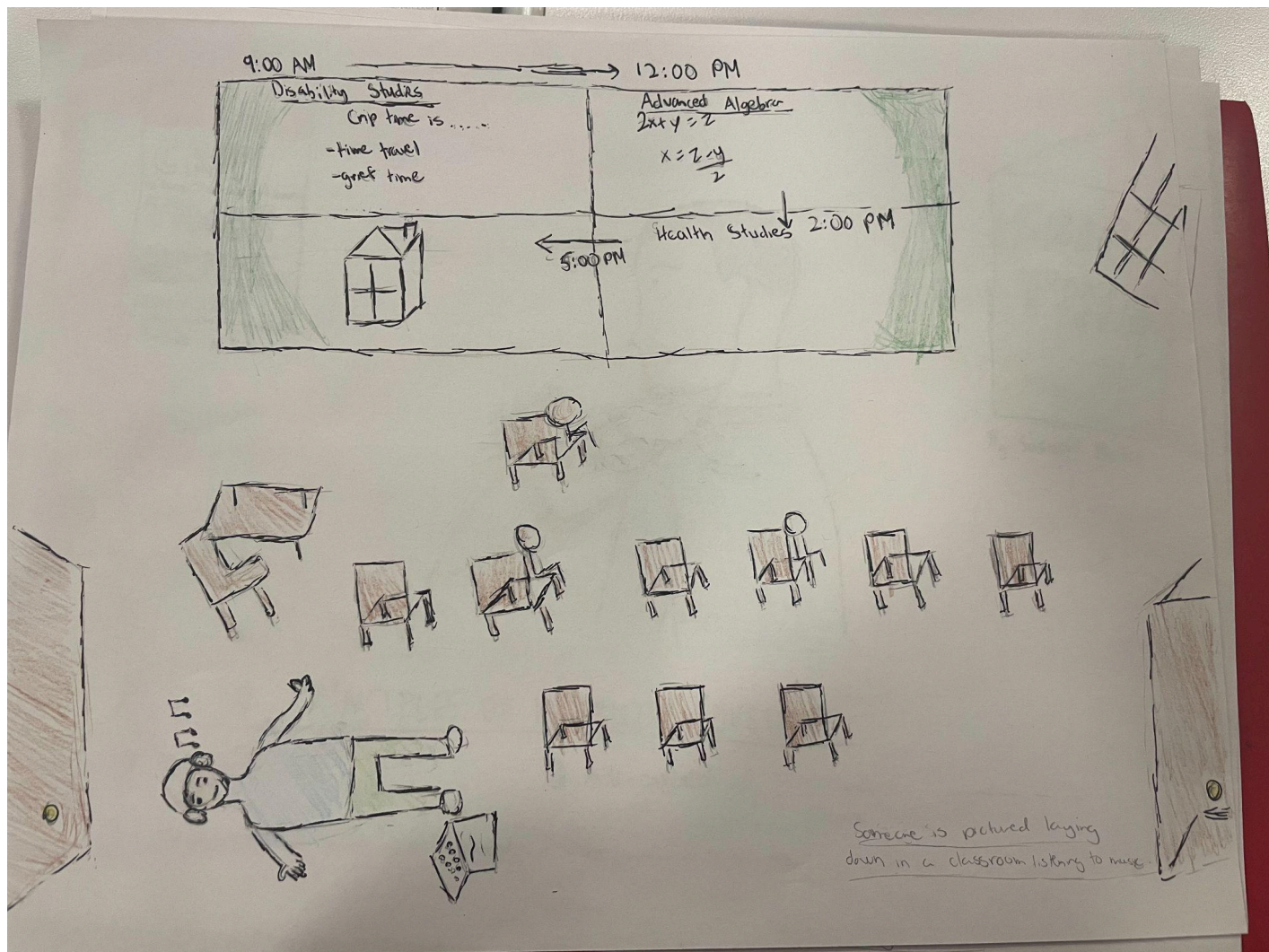
1. Crip Time is Time Travel

Disability possesses a power—the ability to place someone in a “wormhole of forward and backwards acceleration”—as described by Samuels. In my illustration, I introduced a plane where “normal” time exists, connected to another dimensional plane by a wormhole. In fact, that illustration is based on relativity, and is society’s current best understanding of time travel. Also, the wormhole serves as a connection point, since an individual with a disability time-travels back and forth between the society’s normal understanding of time and crip time. Society attempts to bring people with disabilities back to viewing time linearly, medicalizing their problems through terms like chronic and progressive, however, crip time is not aligned with the normality of the world moving forward. The nonprogressive forward movement of time is represented in the bottom dimensional plane (labelled crip time), since time is moving backwards rather than forwards.



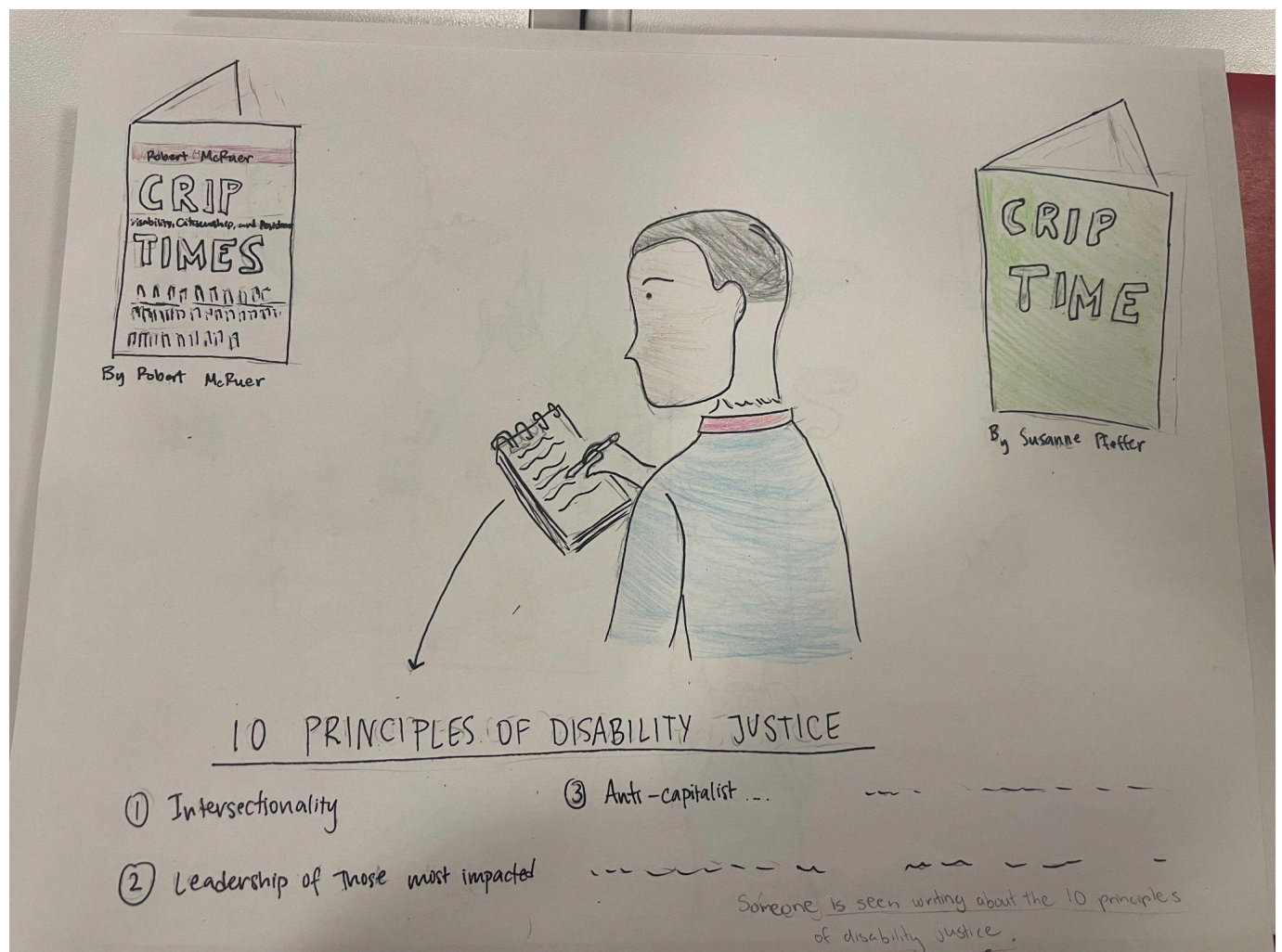
2. Crip Time is Sick Time

The normative schedule of a 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM job, or a college-class day with long classes, is by no means designed to be disability-friendly. Frankly speaking, no one can be focused for that many hours (and classes should be designed to offer students more breaks like this one). Samuels discusses the difficulty of managing her graduate school's academics with her illness—laying down was one way to deal with the physical demands of daily life. Through my illustration, I envisioned students in the graduate school class sitting on uncomfortable chairs that were not designed for students with disabilities. The author is pictured at the bottom of the sketch, laying down with the laptop beside them, visibly smiling: living in crip time was something only Samuels was experiencing.



3. Crip Time is Writing Time

Samuels discusses writing about crip time as being one of her major goals, which is why I included books that discuss this topic in my drawing. Writing can provide a sense of “cultural validity” to the disability community in a world where they are often ignored, especially if they garner attention through awards. I show someone writing the “10 Principles of Disability Justice” during crip time, since those are the core values that tie all folks from the disability community and their allies together—concepts we refer back to in class as well.



4. Crip Time is Vampire Time

The aging of people with disabilities can vary, as some may seem young from the outside, but their joints and tendons are degrading, which is Samuels' genetic condition. I drew a vampire to represent the non-aging features, since they are perceived as ageless creatures. Also, vampires are not in sync with most of the world during the daylight, operating mainly during the night while most of the world is asleep. My understanding from the author is that disability is incredibly constraining, and changes their typical schedule by keeping them awake late at night, much like a vampire. Samuels connects feeling like a vampire to time travel because their condition causes them to look and feel different ages, which shows how crip time can take on so many different representations.

