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Professor Mary

Rhet 105

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### Critical Response 1: The Connection Between each Source

Each piece of writing gave a thorough and specific main idea. The Student Code provided a descriptive article about the rights and responsibilities as a student at the University of Illinois. It explains the purpose of being a member of the community and the opportunity to succeed. I think that the student code is the root of the other two pieces. It gives students here the opportunity to pursue the ideas in the writings of Carolyn Hax and Howard White.

Carolyn Hax wrote her column with a more specific idea. The idea of being optimistic. She explains that it is much easier for people to quickly think of the negatives in every situation. However, it is important to stay positive to maintain a healthy lifestyle free of negativity. Being positive leads to many more opportunities than being pessimistic.

Howard White, in his essay, illustrates the importance of opportunity and how to make them in life. He urged that one should greet everyone with a welcoming and open mind. Just a simple greeting can be the spark needed to lead a person to new and better happenings in life. All of these writings were very relevant in my life, especially at this time. The one that stood out to me the most was Howard White's essay because I believe it is the most relevant in this new chapter in my life.

Being at college is a great away to make a lot of friends and talk to new people. In the very beginning of my time on campus, I was very nervous about meeting new people and always kept to myself. After reading Howard White's letter, it encouraged me to be more outgoing and

talk to people. I realized that it is important to connect with people. In most cases, everyone will also reciprocate with kind and friendly words. So, as time went on, I grew more comfortable with the idea of talking and introducing myself to new people. Since then, I have made many new friends and it has greatly enhanced my time here on campus. As I continue to meet new people, I am sure that new opportunities will arise of which I will take advantage.

I also need to take the advice from Carolyn Hax. If I am being honest, I tend to see the negative side to many situations in my life because, in most case, I find it easier, just as Hax explained. When I read her column, I immediately connected it with my parents. My father, although very fun and outgoing, often thinks of the worst possible outcome. However, my mother is the most optimistic person I know. My mother's optimistic behavior definitely reduces her stress levels and she is almost never angry. On the other hand, my dad is often times too stressed and holds on to anger. This shows that being optimistic will surely improve your lifestyle and mental capacity. I believe that I am somewhere in between my father and my mother on an optimistic level. Now, I will try harder to always try and see the bright side and I know it will brighten my spirits as well.