

Erika Plascencia

Professor Mary Hays

Rhetoric 105

December 1, 2015

Student Policy: Saying "Hello" To People

Howard White points out in his essay, "The Power of 'Hello'," that he made it a sort of rule for himself to greet whomever he passes by. White made the decision after his mother scolded him for not greeting Mr. Lee. Howard White proceeds to explain what the impact of greeting someone has on the individual. The main idea of the essay is in the text; White believes everyone should be noticed, and this could be done with a greeting. After reading White's essay, and Article 1 of the Student Code, I began to believe White's reasoning towards greeting even the most humblest of people should be placed on everyone so that any individual can be acknowledged.

While reading the Student Code, I found it to be similar to any other; the same rights are granted to students as to citizens outside of school. No rights are lost, but rules do have to be followed, like laws. In order for a peaceful environment, students shouldn't discriminate one another, and people have the right to express themselves. In other words, if people don't agree with a belief, then they have to tolerate it, since that is better than a fight occurring. Peace should be maintained like this, but after experiencing the campus of U of I myself, I thought being friendly should be a sort of rule. Now, this rule isn't something that should be directly stated, but it should be common sense: something that everyone, not just students, should follow.

As Howard White implements saying hello to people in his way of life, people on the campus of U of I should too. White wrote in his essay that, "every person deserves to feel someone acknowledge their presence." I totally agree with White. I began to implement White's rule after reading the article,

and as a result, I began to receive more smiles, nods, and hellos in return. On occasion, I would say hello and just receive a stare, which isn't very comforting. However, that stare doesn't bother me because at least I had the ability to say hi. People who didn't speak to me in my own dorm even began to greet as I began to greet them first. People should be told to say hello to their peers and authorities on campus, and maybe this will allow more people to be friendly to one another. Saying hello does have an impact on individuals, and although to some, saying hello to someone you don't know may be odd, at least the opportunity was taken, and the individual who was greeted will feel more noticed.