

Jahzae Wooten

Professor Mary

Rhet 105

2 May 16

Rhetorical Composition of The Power of Civility

In the short readings, “The Power of Hello” and the “University of Illinois Student Code” one is able to note several similarities and differences between the two sources. Some of these differences include the intended audience, diction, and the organization of both sources. For example, in the “University of Illinois Student Code” one can find an abundance of legal jargon. It also organized in three articles, each with a different subject. On the other hand, “The Power of Hello” follows a simple anecdote form. Additionally, one is also able to note similarities in how the claim was relayed in both sources.

In “The Power of Hello” the main character/author, Howard White, sets his account in typical anecdote form. It recalls a time from his childhood and builds on how it has made him into the person he is today. The intended audience for this essay is the general public. It is very casual and easy to read which makes it possible for nearly anyone to understand. White’s word choice is also very easygoing. This aids in the casual anecdote style. On the other hand, when looking at the Article 1 of The University of Illinois’ Student Code one immediately notices the difference in organization. The structure of the student code is very similar to that of a legal

document. The Student Code uses very complex and formal word choice. The organization of this source implies that the intended audience for this source includes, student, staff, lawyers, and various University employees. The differences in both sources aid in the overall organization of both readings.

Although the two readings have several differences, one main similarity is the way the thesis is related in both texts. In both readings the claim is directly stated. After reading White's account readers are able to gather that his overall claim is that it is important to make everybody feel like a somebody regardless of who they are. One is able to come to this conclusion because it is precisely stated. It is also easy to conclude because of Howard's recollection on a childhood memory. Furthermore, Article 1 of the Student Code purpose is to make students and University employees alike aware of students' legal guarantees. Likewise, this is also stated in the Student Code. It becomes even more transparent after reading Article 1, readers are able to gather the function of the document.

Overall, the organization of both readings are set up in a way so that they assist in the overall goal of both readings. The rhetorical composition of both sources are conducive to each reading's overall purpose.