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A Simple Gesture Can Go a Long Way

As a member of any community we are required, or at least assumed to have, a certain amount of respect for one another. Along with this respect, a student or faculty member on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is given certain rights and responsibilities. These rights and responsibilities are clearly stated in the *Student Rights and Responsibilities* article: freedom to learn, free and open expression within limits that do not interfere with the rights of others, free and disinterested inquiry, intellectual honesty, sustained and independent search for truth, the exercise of critical judgment, respect for the dignity of others, and personal and institutional openness to constructive change. I would agree with this article in the way that as a productive member of society you must uphold and/or exercise these rights and responsibilities whenever or wherever you see fit.

The Power of 'Hello' by Howard White is an inspiring article about how a simple greeting can go a long way. The author clearly stated that with a quick and painless "hello" you can brighten someone's day. "The Phrase sounds simple, but it's been a guidepost for me and the foundation of who I am," said White. I would have to agree with White on this topic; a simple greeting can go a long way for some people. I try to be courteous as I walk throughout the community by at least smiling and nodding at the people I come across. Without communication and human interaction a person's psyche can really diminish. After having read this passage I believe that I will now try my best to greet just about everyone that I come across in my daily life, and even have an extended conversation with them if they

want to. I particularly enjoyed how White explained that his friendliness and communication actually led him into a higher position in his place of employment.

To help form a better and more productive society, I believe that we must show respect for one another, uphold our responsibilities as citizens, and be kind to everyone, not just the people you know. If we do that we will get respect and kindness in return thus developing our society into a more productive place. White said it himself, when he felt or heard someone respond to his greeting it made him feel good, so why doesn't everyone do it? Without such communication and respect, our society will remain stagnant in its growth and thus our community will do the same.