

Nikola Koziol

Mary Hays

Critical Response 1 Revision

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Showing Respect with Simple Acknowledgments

Children should learn how to be respectful before entering the world independently. These individuals will know how to behave in situations, in which, they encounter different religions, cultures, and physical characteristics. Humans need to peacefully live among strangers in addition to their family and friends, thus mutual respect needs to exist. According to White's thesis, "every single person deserves to be acknowledged, however small or simple the greeting" (White). People cannot ignore strangers only because they are unfamiliar. White's mother argues that if even a dog can wag its tail at the sight of a human, then people should greet the strangers they pass on the street. By showing that an animal, without a conscious or intellectual thoughts, can have more sympathy than a human, White's mother makes discrimination sound comical and immature. She emphasizes the wag of a dog's tail to show the simplicity of a greeting. Comparing a human to this animal is insulting because humans do not want to be compared to a dirty, wild creature with no self-control. This insult can be the statement that encourages people to change their actions.

Expressing mutual kindness can result in an unexpected impact, such as, making someone smile, improving a bad day, or unexpectedly beginning a new friendship. New friends can be made at unexpected moments because people with the same interests, are not always alike physically. Discrimination due to a difference in race, gender, or age is an unjustified judgment.

As a result, the Student Code, at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, establishes rules that allow all students to freely speak of their religion, race, sexual orientation, and other personal opinions (Article 1). These rules eliminate fear students may feel when expressing their different opinions. Without these rules, the general public may not feel obligated to show respect to individual with differing opinions.

As a new member of the University of Illinois community, I plan to actively give acceptance and respect to students and faculty. Before college, I believed in freedom of expression, however; I did not acknowledge people near me unless they were my friends. As a result, I may have been unintentionally rude. College is the best time to explore new ideas because most new students have the same open-minded attitude. This is a common attitude because most students want to rebuild their reputation and persona. After only 4 months of studying at the University of Illinois, I realize that Greek life makes this goal hard to maintain. Many students completely ignore people that are not in their sorority or fraternity pledge class. Despite the growing social divisions, I will continue to have respect for people I do not know personally. I will not allow silence to divide people into groups of personalities, interests, and looks.

Works Cited

“Article 1-Students Rights and Responsibilities.” *Student Code Illinois*. University of Illinois

Board of Trustees, 2008. Web. 23 Nov. 2015.

White, Howard. “The Power Of ‘Hello’” *NPR News*. N.p., 25 Aug. 2008. Web. 23 Nov. 2015.