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Rhet 105 Critical Response

Finding and Staying Yourself in a Large Society

Sometimes being an individual in a large society can be difficult. People tend to lose who they truly are based on judgments and stereotypes. Howard White’s Essay, “The Power of Hello,” and The Student Code for University of Illinois exhibits the individuality of being apart of a large group because they communicate with the reader that no matter your title, race, or appearance, everyone deserves to be treated equally no matter how small or large the situation is.

Howard White explains this idea through a personal story; the upcoming of his career and how he never managed to lose the idea of saying hello to people. Howard White is the vice president of the Jordan Brand for Nike, and although he upholds a high position, his mother taught him that every person deserves to be acknowledged. Because of the lesson he was taught in his toddler years, he talked to the café workers or the people that cleaned his building because he believed everyone deserved to feel important no matter they position. Although having a big title in the company, he never lost his humbleness and true self. Howard Whites belief also relates to the University of Illinois Student Code.

When someone is apart of a big university, it’s common to feel like you’ve lost your personal identity. The Student Code highlights and reassures students and members that a person should never feel that way. It states that students should never be graded on opinions or anything unrelated to academic matters and that any beliefs of any sort should be confidential, so that in any environment they don’t feel targeted in the classroom. The rights of the classroom also transfer to Campus Expression. Although peaceful protesting is allowed, the University regulates it so that individuals are assured their safety and individuality.

In my opinion, I strongly agree with Howard White and the Student Code. It is crucial for students, faculty, or anybody on campus to feel as if they are in a judgment free zone and that they are still able to express themselves within a large campus. I have seen situations where students may feel violated because of something that was said, or even an advertisement where the students feel afraid to express their real selves and I think it’s crucial to be yourself because in the future it will get you to where you want to be.

Although both readings impacted me on the choices I make and the things I say, the Power of Hello impacted and motivated me to reach out to every individual, even if it is just a simple hello. In my everyday life I could be distracted and walk right past people I know, but now I’m going to start paying attention because you never know what people could be going through or how somebody could be feeling and a simple hello really changes that.

Howard Whites, “Power of Hello,” and the Student Code for the University of Illinois was powerful because it allowed the reader to understand that it’s important for a person to not lose their individuality and to be a judgment free person because doing a simple deed can go a long way.