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Critical Response #1

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Small Actions Can Go a Long Way

Howard White's story was brief but the message conveyed had so much significance. Mr. White believes that every person's presence deserves to be acknowledged. Not every rich person, good looking person, tall person, christian person, white person, but every single person. His purpose of telling this personal story went far beyond people listening to it. His goal is getting people to actually do it. I assure you that Howard White did not tell this story on NPR to get people to think of how nice of a guy Howard White is. He shared this character changing moment with NPR to have a lasting effect on the way people interact with other members of society.

I connected strongly with the role that Howard White's mother played in this story. A role model is not only a person that somebody else looks up to but a person that somebody else imitates and follows. Howard White's mother played the perfect role model. She taught him a certain way to act and be, and Howard followed. Today, Howard White is a much stronger person for simply listening to his mother's advice.

This story definitely does make me want to make a change in my own life. I pass by so many people on the street and see so many people in my community but I usually decide not to take the time to say anything unless I know them pretty well. Howard White's story challenges me to talk to and acknowledge more people because of how long a way it can go to someone.

Article One of the Student Code had many sections to it but covered one huge theme. That theme is respect. The university has many goals but the most important one is to create a

safe living and learning environment for students and faculty. The article discussed how serious they are with not discriminating, not sexually harassing, honoring people's beliefs, and respecting the privacy of everyone.

To me personally, I have never had a problem with obeying these rules. I was raised to not pick on people for their differences. However, that does not mean that it doesn't exist. I know that I will not have a problem with obeying Article One of the Student Code but the article encourages me to stand up against people who do not obey it. I believe in this section of the student code and plan to not only obey it but enforce it.

These two sources were extremely different but very powerful in one aspect. They both encouraged me to be more empathetic and reach out a little more to touch someone's life in a positive way.