

### **The Power of Civility & Networking**

A simple greeting is all you can do to create change in this world and your own life. In Howard White's '*The Power of 'Hello'*', he claims that it is important to acknowledge people no matter who you are. The author does not state this directly or explicitly, but implies it by giving examples from his own life experiences. Howard White talks about his job position to support his thesis. To support his thesis, White claims that even though he holds a high position in a company with many employees, he still takes the time to greet and talk to people above and below his superiority. Howard White's essay discusses the impact of deciding to greet or not to greet other people. With his experience, greeting people had many benefits that helped him get to where he is today. I strongly agree with White's idea and believe that acknowledging people can lead to outcomes which can impact not only yourself but others.

In Article I of the Student Code called "Student Rights and Responsibilities" discusses how student should be able to have free discussion and expression in class. If students networked more, they would be more comfortable in sharing beliefs without having to be protected or judged. This can be very beneficial skill in the classroom. This relates to Howard's experiences because he would also network just by greeting people. For example, talking to his employees let him better understand his job position and allowed him to be connected with them. In my own experience, it is just a nice gesture to say a friendly greeting to someone you see a lot but don't know so well. For example, walking to class on campus, there are many students and familiar faces. If I would pass someone I see every day on the same route I would greet them with a "hello" because in the future I might meet them by being in the same class. Being in the same

class and already knowing that person from simple every day greetings can establish a great friendly relationship. That relationship can have benefits because we could work together to study and both benefit by doing well in the same class we are in.

This reading reminded me of my own life experience and how I obtained my first full time job. I would always treat my swim coach with respect and talk to him about a variety of things. Maintaining a good relationship through many years allowed me to network and find benefits. My swim coach hired me to work with him because he thought I was a good swimmer and I had great potential in helping others learn how to swim. This was a great opportunity for me because I not only did I receive a job, but I got to impact others with my experience. This reading makes me want to continue networking to find more great opportunities that can be beneficial to my life.