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Critical Response #1: The Power of Civility

The overall message in Howard White's essay, "The Power of 'Hello' ", is that saying hello can get you far in life, and to speak to everyone. He describes how ever since he was a young child, his mother told him to always speak to someone. He often quotes from his mother "You let that be the last time you ever walk by somebody and not open up your mouth to speak, because even a dog can wag its tail when it passes you on the street." White explains how this stuck with him for the rest of his life. He gives an example with the founder of the company he works with. He tells how he always speak and asks how the business was going. Now he's vice president of the company, and still speaks to everyone that he approaches. Howard White's essay gives a strong message, and I agree with him. Just speaking to someone can brighten their day. Even if they don't speak back you still feel good about yourself.

In the Students' Rights and Responsibilities article about the student code discusses the rights to have in a classroom. The student code is there so they have freedom of speech in a class. They have the right to voice their opinion they feel strongly about. As a student, certain procedures and guidelines must be followed, and if they were to ever get out of line or go against the professors' rules, the professor has the right to exclude the student from the class, and they will take it up with the dean. I agree with this student code because there are some students who aren't comfortable enough to voice their opinions to the class, and if they were to do so, there could be more discussion about the topic. They could see how other students view the topic. Students don't pay attention to the power they have on a classroom, and they should take advantage.

Overall, each article gives insight as to how the power of respect can get you far just by speaking and following simple rules and regulations. Howard White uses his own life experience and it shows how

speaking to everyone can change their day. A simple 'Hello' can get you far. Also the student code is a great tool for students because it breaks down what they have to follow and when rules are broken consequences will soon be faced.

Sources:

- White, Howard. "The Power of 'Hello'" *NPR*. NPR, 14 Aug. 2008. Web. 26 Jan. 2015.
- UIUC Student Code