**The Value of the Humanities**

As someone who is majoring in computer science it is easy to forget that there is more to the world than just facts. I believe the humanities allows every single person regardless of their background, major, or status in life to connect on a basic level, which is that we are all living on this Earth. In Butler’s speech, she mentions that the humanities give us a chance “to understand the vast range of perspectives in and on this world”. I think this is one of the most crucial skills that anyone should have. The ability to put oneself in another person’s shoes allows them to express understanding for why they think and act the way they do. I believe a lot of misunderstandings that occur in this world time and time again is due to the inability of people to comprehend that we are all distinctly unique but at the end of the day have a responsibility to each other to make this world a better place. We can do this by combining various ways of thinking to reach the best outcome for all. This idea of understanding others was highlighted in the TED Talk where the speaker mentions we are oblivious to the fact that we speak the same languages. I believe this talk emphasized the idea that as humans we have a lot more common than we think, and the humanities enable us to take a moment to realize the similarities we share such as grief and love being languages that almost everyone experiences. However, if it was not for the humanities we would skip over such details and never think outside the box to realize that grief and love may not be a language in the literal sense, but it is a language in the sense that it connects people.

Furthermore, the act of reflection is extremely important and is brought about by studying the humanities. Butler states in her speech that “even in the space of activism, there has to be time for reflection”. There is no point in continually moving forward without stopping occasionally, to reflect on how we got to where we are. By reflecting, we are allowing us to take the time to observe our mistakes and learn from them; as well as observe our successes and continue to perform them. It is necessary that we are aware of the purpose for every action we do because if we do not, soon there will be no passion behind our actions and we will be simply doing things for the sake of it. In addition, it is key to realize how blessed we are in order to understand how unfortunate others are, Butler states that only then will we be able to learn “what it means to live in the shattered world of non-recognition, and how best to counter it”. For example, realizing how lucky I am to be able to take a 30-minute shower every day is the only way I will be to realize that it is a privilege to do so, and it is important that I strive to aid others in having the same privilege. Only through the humanities will I be able to view how different cultures in underdeveloped countries in the world are living with water scarcity and are struggling for resources that I consider to be abundant. The humanities allow us to look outside of our own little bubble and comprehend the life of others in relation to our own. This enables us to fight for those that experience injustice and give back to the world. Lastly, the only way we can expect others to care for the world and everything in it, is only if we start caring for it today and being critical of why things are the way they are is the first step toward a better future.