Response to today’s session

“Where there is conflict, theatre is the best tool to illuminate that conflict.” One of the opening quotes of today’s session struck very true. Theatre is the best way to expose the struggles of our society. Their opener scene was to illustrate an issue of generalizing a whole people, causing the victim to be ostracized. The main question from this is what would you have done? People will act differently to this scenario. Are you one to cause conflict? Are you one to use a safe action to make the victim feel included? Do nothing? If I had noticed this happening, you better believe that I would figure out what is going on. I have no problem going up to someone to talk to them privately, as well as call them out in front of everyone else. If I was in a class, I would sit next to the victim. Just because she was dressed differently does not make her an enemy. We are all students studying to become more educated. She is doing the same thing. Do not judge and ostracize someone by the way they look. Talk to them to understand their mind, not body.

We then went to another scenario about choosing to use the N word in ‘Huckleberry Finn.’ What this sketch was trying to show us was how a dynamic changes the course of a conversation. When talking about a subject that is very controversial, a room can heat up. The changing in different positions can impact its result. The scene then added Simon, a black man, in a room of all whites. How does that change what people say? When Simon was added, the room atmosphere changed. People were picking their words carefully and occasionally looking at Simon to concur on their argument or any reactions to what people are saying. Is that a racist thing to do? To think that because Simon is black, he is the ultimate support to have in the decision?

Through this class, there have been many lessons I have learned and some still working towards learning. Diving into very intense conversations can be uncomfortable and offensive, but these talks are needed to express our views and to establish the reasons for other views. These combined sessions are extremely beneficial to listen to a wider set of people at UNH. Overall, these sessions go together to our regular class meetings because it lets us establish our views and have other professionals express the problems we face every day.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for making this class an amazing experience for me. I would also like to thank Professor Richman to enlightening us with so many educated views and plays. I do know that I can be confrontational and controversial. I can be rude and insensitive too. I want to say that my only goal is to illicit argument so I can read other people’s views. Thank you all and have a stress-free final week and an amazing summer.

-Charlie