Response to Twilight: Los Angeles

While watching and reading *Twilight: Los Angeles*, I could not help but think about another play I participated in in high school. I am sure most of you have never heard of it, but Professor Richman probably has. *The Laramie Project*. This play’s structure is very like *Twilight: Los Angeles*. For my response, I will be comparing these two plays and how they both touch on the problems of discrimination in the US.

To begin, I would like to preface with why we hate. Why humans, for as long as we have been working together, seem to have this need to feel better then another person. I am starting to think it is truly a living trait. For the years before modern civilization, life was more barbaric. We waged wars on clans that were different then our own. To be honest, we are the same way now, but also different. The wars we can rage now can destroy and kill more people than ever before. We have energy of the gods. Every play we read, I am reminded of this hatred. Will we ever get over this? I believe one day we will no longer hate on the people who are different, and I will make sure to touch on this later in my response.

*The Laramie Project* is a story of a college student who was brutally murdered for being gay. *Twilight: Los Angeles* touched upon the rise of police brutality among minorities, concentrating on the event in Los Angeles in 1998. How the play was structured was a series of interviews of the people who have experienced and have been affected by the beating of Rodney King. When performed, which is minimal because it is played by only the author portraying all characters from the interviews, it is extremely impactful to my state of mind. I have been aware that police brutality is a problem here. People are more likely to stop a black man walking down a street at night than a white man. That is a fact. Rodney King was one of the first cases where it could be shown to the public. This changed everything. When people can see, what’s going on over and over, they become passionate in fixing it. That is why there was a riot. This is also the reason modern wars are so opposed; people can see the horror going on.

This class surprised me again of an event, which seems not long ago, that has escaped my mind. These plays always can relate to the struggles we have now. *The Laramie Project* is very similar. It is about a gay student who gets murdered by being lured to the outskirts of his town. He is brutally beaten and left bleeding out tied to a fence. I had the opportunity to play two roles, a fellow student and one of the killers. Man, that was hard. I do not look like a killer, but I had to act it. It was my most challenging role. But, in general, these plays are very similar. An event happens where someone was beaten for who they are. No one should be hurt because they are black, are gay. Notice the ‘are.’ They do not choose to enter this world like they do, just some people do not understand that we are not a bunch of different races and people, but merely the human race. If we are visited by other life from across our universe, they will know our strengths; they will know our weaknesses. This is our worst weakness as humans. It has been an occurring problem of humans, and hopefully soon, we can say that we have changed.

The watching and reading of this play has brought many memories back from high school, and made me rethink of a lot of the theatre I have done. They all express a deep meaning, but so much of it used to go over my head. I believe, one day, we will not hate. We will come to terms on how we are the way they are. Where we come from and who made us. We will solve the mystery of what we are to come to terms of how we are just one race.