

Dulce Seminar Self Reflection: 3/15/13

Ande Lloyd

One comment made by Avra, during the discussion over the meaning of the second stanza in Dulce Decorum Est, stood out. Avra said, "The meaning of mainly the second stanza, shows that chaos is something that a soldier has to deal with. Chaos shows how "accepting" soldiers have to be."

Avra's comment meant that soldiers have to go through so much pain and suffering, they have no choice but to accept it, and live on. Being constantly shot at, bombed, and gassed are just some of the things they have to deal with. The reason why this comment grabbed my attention was, because I had just finished my genocide project on the idea of Apathy. Apathy is a blunting emotion that a person can feel when being imprisoned, or in my case, stuck in a concentration camp. When someone feels apathy, they stop caring about the horrible things around them and focus on the survival of them selves and their comrades. This relates to soldiers being accepting because, isn't apathy the same thing? When they stop caring, they have accepted the negativity and focused on the important things. Avra's comment made me really think how deeply a person can go on one idea. I'm glad to have had the wondrous thought processes running freely in my brain. ☺

During a time of war, should citizens be shown the horrors that soldiers experience, or should they be sheltered from those horrors?

As the people in the seminar might of heard I made a bold comment during this question. I am glad and proud I did this because it made me connect more deeply towards a perspective. That perspective is that if the loved ones of those fallen soldiers wish to honor that soldier, by all means the government should let that happen.

What I actually said was, "my older brother is currently in military training and if he went over seas to fight in a war and died, I would want his coffin presented to American citizens because I know that my brother was very passionate in what he did, and I would want to honor that." This caused me to have a lot of emotion during the seminar, and it was hard to get my self back on track. This weekend however my older brother will be visiting, and getting his perspective on this question would be extremely interesting and valuable. He said, "War in general needs to be publicized even more than it is now because it will show people how hard it is to actually be a soldier, and show the hardships they are going through. Also it will gain more support for soldiers in America. As for allowing the public to see the photographs of coffins, I think that by doing so, you show honor and respect for that soldier, and what they died for." Ironically, given that Kendall and I have very different views, it was comforting to be able to share the same perspective on this topic. Coffins of soldiers should be shown to the public because it does show respect, and it allows people to appreciate living in the country they do.

A personal experience I had, and everyone knows it was my kidney biopsy. This experience relates to the seminar because I asked a question, "Is accepting things a good way to tackle life?" I was surprised on how many different perspectives I got on this issue. The group unanimously agreed that accepting things is a good way to tackle life. But then we started getting into challenging things and your-self. If we accept everything, then bad things will remain bad. Eric made a point saying, "If you were in a situation like genocide, then accepting it would help you. But a situation like bulling, then accepting it would be bad." We said that it is only okay to accept bad things, if you have tried everything to stop that bad thing. It's a cool moral. It has made me consider, what I have learned through my experiences in the hospital and make it into something more. Not tolerating negative activity until you have done everything you can do to stop it is awesome. I will defiantly use this in my future.

I chose an organization called "Human Rights Watch." Human Rights Watch is an organization founded to educate and conduct human rights. Their goal is to oppose violations of human rights all over the world. Some of those violations may include capital punishment (were someone is sentenced to death by a state or government), and sexual orientation. Their headquarters are in New York City, but they are stationed literally around the globe. Their strategy in communicating their goals is by writing reports and articles about human rights and delivering them in places were human rights are being violated. It's an awesome organization that has a really genius and peaceful way to make the world a better place. I think their way is beneficial, but one of the things that I can't get my head around are risks of reporting these writings in counties that don't have the freedom of speech. Not every country is an America. Me as an individual can do what they are doing in my own life. I have made a goal for myself to not tolerate any negative situation or comment at school, track, and even at home. I feel really B.A. when I do this, and it makes me feel good.