



To Whom This Concerns:

Dialogues on Diversity swept through the Stark County, Ohio area in March 2016 and received rave reviews! It was a pleasure to host the performance and to work with Ron Jones on a high school performance at our freshman academy which has an enrollment of 600 students, and also for an evening community performance at the Kent State University Stark Campus.

Overwhelmingly, our students enjoyed the performance. This was confirmed by their responses to a program exit ticket in which 80% of the students chose "Agree" on all four of the following factors:

- I thought the assembly was worthwhile.
- I learned something during the assembly.
- I believe we need to treat others with respect.
- I believe that next year's freshman students will like this assembly.

The other 20% of students agreed with all of the above statements except one (responses varied as to which one). Additionally, students expressed how much they enjoyed the performance and how much they learned on an open-ended response sheet.

What I personally appreciated the most about working with Ron was his diligence in spending time to discuss what our program goals were before the performance, and his willingness to personally engage the community stakeholders and students in small group settings in addition to the performance. He participated in a small group community stakeholder dialogue as well as a post-performance dialogue session with a small group of students. The opportunity for small group debrief was appreciated by the participants and meaningful exchanges and new understandings took place. Additionally, his passion for enlightening and pricking the conscience of others regarding diversity, equity and inclusion shines through his provocative, witty and just plain entertaining writing, character and plot development, stage presence and

execution.

Our school community and the community at large found the program to be engaging, informative, relevant, and a unique way to penetrate the critical, yet delicate, topic of equity, diversity and inclusion.

I highly recommend Dialogues on Diversity as an opportunity to increase diversity awareness, initiate courageous conversations, and to have a good time while doing it.

Sincerely,

Andrea B. Ramsey

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Coordinator - Equity & Inclusion
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Canton City School District Student Comments (March 2016):

1. What are two things *The Movement* presentation made you think about?
 - It made me think about people who fought so that blacks and whites could connect.
 - How our world has changed.
 - How little I actually knew.
 - The voice is very important and the greatest gift is being heard.
 - It make me think about other races and how we must work together with them.

2. How does the information you viewed in *The Movement* relate to what is happening in our country today?
 - That civil rights encompasses everyone and it is a continual process.
 - It relates to what is going on with Muslims and refugees.

3. General comments:
 - When he changed into those different outfits every scene had a very touching point.
 - The assembly provided an opportunity to teach everyone from each race on how to treat everyone equally. It also gave us an opportunity to learn about black people's' accomplishments and struggles throughout different time periods. I learned that this generation of young people should be the start of a no racism, equal and fair world.
 - The DOD program provided an opportunity for us to learn more about certain topics that we knew about but really did not understand.