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## Invisible Lines: An Enthnodrama of the Bloomington Communities

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Raven Stubbs'13

JWP Conference Abstract

**Invisible Lines:**

**An Ethnodrama of the Bloomington Communities**

Bloomington has a very nostalgic, dream like feeling to it according to the common IWU student's impression, myself included. It wasn't until I became heavily involved in volunteer work through the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) that I realized that Bloomington is not the affluent IWU bubble and Veterans Parkway shopping utopia that we usually have in our minds. Bloomington, as a community, can't be drench in affluence, as we perceive it to be, because right east of Market St. is a majorative population of low-income, underrepresented minorities. I set out to discover what the community of Bloomington truly is at its core, what problems lie within this community where students spend four essential years of their lives, and why those problems exist.

I used a sociological qualitative and an ethnodrama research method in interviewing several members of the Bloomington community: students, faculty, not-for-profit organization leaders, and long-time residents. The result became a docudrama play in which I attempt to paint a realistic picture of the community we live in.

Raven Stubbs

**Invisible Lines:**  
An Ethnodrama of Bloomington's Communities

**Conversations**

The scene opens with three upper middle class white women, mid 30s. Their attire is very elaborate and high end yet "business casual". They all are occupying their individual high back accent chairs (provoking the throne look) forming an arc around the coffee table.<sup>1</sup>

**Women 1:**

We have so much history here and I think we do a fabulous job at maintaining the historic content of our town<sup>2</sup>.

**Woman 2:** A toast to the women of Bloomington's Historic Preservation Society.

They toast, laugh, and sip from their cups.

**Woman 3:** We still have a lot of work to do. We have to figure out what to do about that one reoccurring issue...

**Woman 1:** What reoccurring issue?

**Woman 3:** West Bloomington.

**Woman 2:** We are Bloomington's Historic Preservation Society not West Bloomington's Historic Preservation Society. They have Western Avenue and the Boys and Girl's club to preserve *their* history. They're not apart of us.<sup>3</sup> (sightly) I'm certainly not apart of them.

**Woman 3:** I'm not sure if there are many people who would out right agree with that.

**Woman 1:** I'm sure that there aren't many people who aren't inwardly thinking it.

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<sup>1</sup> Conversation will be primarily based from an experienced told in Lilah's interview, date: 1/23/13

<sup>2</sup> Cindy interview, date: 1/28/13

<sup>3</sup> Dean interview, date: 1/30/13

Woman 1 and 2 laugh while Woman 3 does a slight scoff from amusement into her cup as she begins to take a sip.

**Woman 2:** (Reaches over and fans Woman 3 on her knee.) You, miss lady, how is the brick mason I sent you?!

**Woman 3:** (swallows the sip of her drink) He's great! He's doing some beautiful work.

**Woman 2:** Of course! We've all seen my façade.

**Woman 1:** And of course, mine before that...well the first one. I'm currently in the process of getting mine rejuvenated, liven it up a bit, lighter color bricks—something or another.

**Woman 3:** Yes, well I'm very excited for mine. He said he thinks it'll be his best work thus far.

**Woman 1:** (lightly laughs) We'll see about that. (lightly laughs) What was your quota, if you don't mind me asking?

**Woman 3:** Well, it was \$18,000. I had originally budgeted around \$22,000 for it.

**Woman 2:** Now you have an additional \$4,000 to buy an Emily Ruddo, Armonia Decors inspired piece for your living room. I saw a beautiful Quadrille China Seas sofa chair that she decorated a room with that was originally priced under \$3,200! (exhales and boastfully continues) You are so lucky! I'm not due for another living room until the end of this season (fake pouts).

**Woman 1:** Speaking of funds, with the help of our double-sided wrapping paper that we were selling, we were able to raise twice our amount from last year in our annual Community preservation fundraiser! Oh I'm so proud of us!

**Woman 3:** Leading us to our next bullet on our agenda: What cause will we dedicate this year's funds to?

**Woman 2:** I'm not sure! It's not like we have any major issues in Bloomington. If we did, I wouldn't want to live here.<sup>4</sup>

Lights go dim on the Three Women and bright on the women who are moving downstage.

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<sup>4</sup> Cindy interview, date: 1/28/13

The scene opens with two women sitting on stage facing the audience. The two women should appear to be in two different spaces. There should be nothing but a chair in each woman's space. The sense is that of an interrogation. To the left is Allison, white, 34 and middle class, an organization leader. She is seen wearing business casual clothing. To the right is Claire, Latina, 20 and lower class, a student of Wesleyan. She is wearing a pair of blue jeans, a tee shirt, and gym shoes.

**Allison:**

I think the east side is very warm and comforting. There are families. East side is definitely the safe side. Anything past market is not safe. I mean I don't think I would feel safe over there<sup>5</sup>... I'm sorry, what?

(coughs. she is obviously uneasy)

No. No what? No, I don't think I would feel safe over there. I'm sorry?

...No...(brushing off a hint of shame) I've never experienced anything to make me think otherwise<sup>6</sup>.

**Claire:**

But the east side is consumerism. I only go there when I need to shop. The east side is not lively. It lacks eccentricity<sup>7</sup>. People go from car to store and back to car. There isn't any community mingling.

(smiles and speaks genuinely)

Oh it's like home—the west side. I'm very comfortable there. There's so much energy<sup>8</sup>. I mean, I feel less safe and comfortable on the east side. (chuckles)

**Allison:**

It just has everything that you need; it's so convenient. Have you seen Veteran's Parkway? You have your shopping malls, your restaurants, maintenance places for cars and etc.,

**Allison/Claire:**

So many grocery stores—

**Claire:**

But the west side is a food desert! Who is helping? There are only two grocery stores for the entire side of town: the Walmart on Market and the Kroger on Main St. And have you seen the produce in that Kroger?

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<sup>5</sup> Allison interview, date: 1/24/13

<sup>6</sup> Allison interview, date: 1/24/13

<sup>7</sup> Claire interview, date: 1/26/13

<sup>8</sup> Claire interview, date: 1/26/13

**Allison/ Claire:**

Oh...well of course there are different perspectives. I'm not sure if--

**Allison:**

You can say one is more right than the other one.

**Claire:**

(smirks) But I do think one is more flawed than the other...(beat) severely.

Lights out on Allison and Claire.

During the transition, Body 1 enters to center stage (instead of body, can be a voice over).

**Body 1 (the actress who also plays Riley):**

Yeah, I totally understand being at IWU-- spending nine months a year, a total of 36 months- 3 years, 1,095 days of your life on an 80 acre plot and never going to the other 27.095 square miles. (Beat) I like being in a box. You don't have to encounter anything that's absurd or completely strange where there's no way it can fit into the world you've been taught all of your life.

Lights Out on Body 1

When the lights come back up, we see a table with four students sitting around it. They all have papers. Ben, 19, and Emilie, 20 white middle class from suburbs of Chicago sits on the left side of the table. Riley, 20, white middle class from Lakeview Chicago and Kelly, 19, black lower class from Hyde Park sits on the right side of the table.

**Emilie:**

Professor Helprin said that we had to create a project for the community. I have nursing friends who interned at OSF St. Joes and they all liked it there. Maybe we should consider creating like a volunteer blood drive for them. We could have it in Hansen like the sororities usually do.

**Ben:**

I think that sounds cool. It's a hospital and they're always in need of blood.

**Kelly:**

Yeah, Ben, I think that's a valid point and I think it's a good idea. I'm just not sure if that's what Deborah has in mind. In the syllabus, it states that it needs to be something that really contributes to a need that the Bloomington community has.

**Emilie:**

Blood is a need. My nursing friends even said that would be great for OSF.

**Riley:**

Well, okay lets say we didn't do the blood drive—hypothetically someone else, another group, has one scheduled already—what else could we come up with? We're in a meeting now, so lets take the next 30 minutes and construct a list of possible things and then start to talk our way through eliminating options.

**Kelly:**

Yeah, that's cool.

**Emilie:**

I don't understand why we would waste time if this is already a good idea.

**Ben:**

Yeah, I'm down with saving some time.

**Kelly:**

Well if we start constructing the list now then we could get to eliminating. That could save time.

**Riley:** (Taking a sheet of paper out to construct the list on)

Okay, so whose got an idea?

**Emilie:**

The OSF blood drive.

**Riley:**

(inhales) Okayy ...(writing it down) "the OSF blood drive".

**Ben:**

We can play games with kids. Teach them some football.

**Riley:**

Football and kids...got it!

**Kelly:**

There's the adopt-a-pod campaign happening. They may be in need of more volunteers to get people engaged with the project. That might be something we look into.

**Riley:**

Adopt-a—

**Emilie:**

(cynical) What would people be adopting a pod for?

**Kelly:**

I think its more towards reinvesting in the downtown area but I'm pretty sure its about more. I'm just not that versed with the project. I mean it's a starter idea. I can look it up now. (grabs phone)

**Emilie:**

I don't think we should do that.

**Riley:**

Okay. Well keep your reasons; write them down so you won't lose them. Then you can tell us during the elimination part. Right now, we really want to get a list of any and all possibilities.

**Kelly:**

So on the Downtown Bloomington Association web page it says that the adopt-a-pod is a "unique and appealing way for each of us to take an active role in greening the Downtown"<sup>9</sup>.

**Riley:**

Great. Okay. So that's three. I've heard of the West Bloomington Revitalization Project. It's for all of the west side so we could see what projects they need.

**Kelly:**

Okay. I know SALSA members are always talking about the need for Spanish translators on the west side and some of them volunteer at Western Avenue. What if we created a program for our *Habla Me* Spanish tutors to also get their language hours by translating for the west side?

**Ben:**

Like, they would go over *there*?

**Kelly:**

Yeah. Just like we will.

**Emilie:**

The syllabus does not say we have to go over there.

**Kelly:**

Where ever we set our program, we'll have to over see it which means we'll have to go to the area.

**Emilie:**

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<sup>9</sup> Downtown Bloomington Association webpage <http://www.downtownbloomington.org/22/36/40.html>



Duh! OSF sounds even better now, doesn't it? We can shop on the east side.

**Kelly:**

I think if we are going to have to do a sufficient project then we should have it be a project that is actually needed. Blood is a request but there are several events geared towards acquiring it. Therefore, it's not a neglected need. However, Deborah talks about west side's needs all of the time so I think we should do some research on what's needed over there.

The room goes quiet. There is a great sense of uncertainty.

**Ben:**

Do they have playgrounds?

**Riley:**

They have kids so... probably.

**Ben:**

We could clean up their parks or do like a park maintenance planning project.

**Riley:**

Yeah! Okay so that's six. Six ideas. Emilie, do you have any others you would want to suggest?

**Emilie:**

We can create a Bloomington business webpage, blog that's updated every week and digi-mailed to students. This way students can stay "in the know" about what's going on with the businesses.

**Ben:**

So it would be like the whole town?

**Emilie:**

(Hesitant)...Yeah, something like that.

**Riley:**

I live right by Franklin Park. They have a carnival. We can figure out what's that about. They may need volunteers.

**Emilie:**

Franklin Park isn't safe!<sup>10</sup>

**Riley:**

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<sup>10</sup> Ariel interview, date: 1/23/13

That's only between the hours of 11pm-3:00am<sup>11</sup>. The carnival starts during the day and ends around 10:00pm or at least we can leave then.

**Ben:**

(standing up to stretch) I mean we shouldn't have to do a lot for this project. Its Wesleyan, we work hard. I'm pretty sure she'll take any volunteer hours.

**Kelly:**

I'm pretty sure that's not the case.

**Emilie:**

(Annoyed, she stands up) Can we take a break? I'm going to get some water.

Emilie and Ben leaves the room. Kelly begins to walk out.

**Riley:**

Why do I feel like this is going to take a lot longer than what it should?

**Kelly:**

Because there is shopping on the east side.

Kelly exits. Riley is left sitting at the table by herself.

Lights out on Riley.

During the transition, Body 2 enters to center stage (instead of body, can be a voice over).

**Body 2:**

I've been in Bloomington for 12 years now and I've lived in several different places here. Yep, you heard that correctly, I live on the west side. Where? In the middle of it. Yes, I do... seven blocks from downtown. I think Bloomington is safe. I feel safe. No, no, no. The problem is west Bloomington is full of rental property and the land lords are absentee and don't pay attention to who move in. Wrong people moved in so there were gang problems but the police have done a crack down job so we're seeing less and less of that problem.<sup>12</sup>

Lights out on Body 2.

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<sup>11</sup> Ariel interview, date: 1/23/13

<sup>12</sup> Lydia interview, date: 1/23/13

When the lights come up we see several tables set up and coffee cups around. Hal, 42, Latino, middle class professor and community worker and June, 38, white middle class organization leader sipping from their coffee mugs.

**June:**

(laughing) Well that's Janet; always there but never on time.

**Hal:**

Yeah, talked to Rick and he seems to be under the impression that Boys and Girls Club are the one's paying for the starter fee.

**June:**

For the carnival?

**Hal:**

Yep. And I asked him how was the Boys and Girls going to pay for it when they've been having to spend money from their budget on food for the kids because their families can't afford feeding them two meals. Its breakfast or dinner.

**June:**

What did he say?

**Hal:**

He tells me that it doesn't matter because Boys and Girls ain't got no business feeding the children and that they better go into their rainy day fund.

**June:**

Wasn't he suppose to get support from some of the business owners in Bloomington?

**Hal:**

Sue over at Eastland Mall told him that they had their hands tied with U-HI so she was sorry that there was nothing she could do.

**June:**

I don't think that U-HI needs the money.

**Hal:**

Yeah and it takes money to make money so you and I are still a monkey's uncle.  
(picks up newspaper and begins to start reading it)

**June:**

(Notices an article on the front cover) Did you check out that article on the race for mayor?

**Hal:**

How many times can one watch the same circus?

**June:**

I don't know Hal, I think it'll be a close race or either that Renner guy will run with it.

**Hal:**

(sarcastically) "From the classrooms of Wesleyan to the office of Bloomington, Renner will fight for you".

**June:**

So who's got your vote?

**Hal:**

I don't know, Junebug. Who ever buys me lunch and beer.

**June:**

Don't you mean dinner and a beer?

**Hal:**

(takes his eyes away from the newspaper to look at her) Naw, girl. I likes to start early! (goes back to newspaper)

**June:**

So who do you want to buy you lunch and a beer?

**Hal:**

The person who talks the right kind of smack.

**June:**

Like what?

**Hal:**

(puts down newspaper) Like somebody needs to tell me what the hell we're going to do with downtown. We, as a town, have no downtown plan—<sup>13</sup>

**June:**

Downtown plan?

**Hal:**

Every city has a 15 year economic plan for their downtown. We don't. We don't have a plan to boost the economy of the west side. <sup>14</sup> So whoever calls himself mayor better have an idea for these things or they can count themselves a vote short.

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<sup>13</sup> Dean interview, date: 1/30/13

<sup>14</sup> Dean interview, date:1/30/13

**June:**

Why does that term even exist? "The economy of the west side." We are supposed to be one town. You would think the economy of a town would be based off the entire town instead you have Bloomington and then west Bloomington.<sup>15</sup>

**Hal:**

Well that's because they want it that way. It's important that people put work into the place that they live<sup>16</sup> but if they can separate their area off and say "Well I don't live over there" then they don't have to put work into the place "over there" nor do they have to feel anything for whatever is happening over there.

**June:**

I'm from the east side and I think there is a pretty fair amount of people who do care about the community.

**Hal:**

Yeah? The community ending at what street? This side of Market?

**June:**

No, stretching to the town's perimeters.

**Hal:**

(chuckles) Well those people must be the minority amongst the other no character having people.<sup>17</sup>

**June:**

Hal, what are you saying?

**Hal:**

All I'm trying to say is that the people on the east side are living good while there is a huge amount of families on the west side that need help. They are some really deserving people, who work really hard to survive.<sup>18</sup>

**June:**

So the people on the east side are non-deserving? I think they are deserving people. Some would even say more deserving being that they work very hard to sustain their financial stability. Just because the people on the east side don't need community organizations for everything, it doesn't mean that they aren't deserving.

**Hal:**

(Nonchalantly) I don't think that's what I was saying.

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<sup>15</sup> Dean interview, date: 1/30/13

<sup>16</sup> Lydia interview, date: 1/23/13

<sup>17</sup> Lydia interview, date: 1/23/13

<sup>18</sup> Lilah interview, date: 1/23/13

**June:**

Well good, Hal, because sometimes you take it a bit too far with your comments on east side residents.

They both go back to sipping their coffee. Hal continues to read his newspaper while there is a pause between him and June.

**Hal:**

(Clears throat, calmly) You know what makes them non-deserving? It's the fact that they don't have a sense of responsibility to the people who are struggling in their own community.

**June:**

What?! Hal. They do! I know people who do! But lets say that they didn't... do you really think that it's their responsibility? Everyone has an option in life. You know what you are born into and the things that are associated with that life so you are responsible for planning accordingly. Making decisions that sets you on the path towards your goals. Where is the individual responsibility?

**Hal:**

(Sarcastically) Apparently all on the east side with the Bootstrap Heroes of America.

**June:**

Want to know why the Bootstrap Heroes are glorified? Because they are self-determined and ambitious and that self-determination and ambition leads them to everything despite them starting with nothing. But the key word is "self".

**Hal:**

You think the people on the east side started from nothing? From the bottom?  
(laughs) Please! You think they only had themselves to depend on? Majority of them had prominent upper middle class upbringings which means privilege.

**June:**

Their parents worked!

**Hal:**

Their parents' stories are the same as theirs. Besides it's not about their parents! Hell!

(silence)

All I'm saying is that there's a clear need for help on the west side and people are expecting the organizations to do it all when they are not-for-profits who go into their own bank accounts to help those families.

**June:**

Its beautiful that they do that but they don't have to!

**Hal:**

How will the kids eat? Huh? Are you forgetting about the people who are being affected by this more than anyone? So it's the parent's responsibility but they can't do it. On minimum wage trying to pay rental fees, transportation, clothes, groceries... transportation there and back to the grocery stores. They simply can't do it. And we can't say that they all are slackers or drug addicts or any other negative label because you and I both can name several hard working parents on the west side. So, if this is the case—that they just simply can't do it, despite it being their responsibly—do we just not feed the children? Or use the resources we have to help the families figure out how to do it so then they can become self-sufficient and fulfill their responsibility?

(Silence)

**June:**

That's an impossible question.

**Hal:**

How is it an impossible question? Its almost a simple question seeing as how I think it can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no".

**June:**

Really? If I say "yes" the kids should get fed then I'm defeating my entire argument being that I truly believe that the ultimate responsibility replies with the parent. But if I say "no" then I'm saying that kids shouldn't get fed and then I automatically appear to be a cold hearted bitch which then makes everything I've said earlier appears to be heartless and the idea of Satan so...

**Hal:**

So... "yes".

Hal goes back to sipping his coffee and reading the newspaper, nonchalantly, while June sits, frustration.

Lights out on Hal and June.

During the transition, Body 3 enters to center stage (instead of body, can be a voice over).

**Body 3:**

Last night, um, my son is in taekwondo, and his teacher is from the south side of Chicago and he was saying how he wished he knew taekwondo when he was

younger because the south side is really rough and he got mugged and someone stole his Halloween candy...and my son, he got in the car and said "why is the south side a bad place?" I said well I don't know what do you mean by bad place? And we talked about what that means. And um we go to the west side and he says well "why do people consider it a bad place?"

So on one hand you want to talk about some very serious inequalities going on in the world and where people live and where people work are still tied to their race because I would like him to have a sense of responsibility that he should be changing some of these things. On the other hand, it's really important for me to say "You can raise a happy, loving family anywhere". There are good people everywhere. Bad neighborhoods don't mean all bad people.<sup>19</sup>

### Lights out on Body 3.

When the lights come up we see Woman 1, Woman 2, and Woman 3 sitting in their spaces from before.

#### **Woman 3:**

Next bullet on agenda: The Coliseum

#### **Woman 1:**

(dramatic) Oh. If we could just bull-doze over it.

#### **Woman 2:**

Hey there, lady.

#### **Woman 1:**

Oh, I just hate it! Its empty 70% of the time!<sup>20</sup>

#### **Woman 3:**

But there's ice skating and the hockey team that plays there. Kids love it.

#### **Woman 2:**

Kids love anything that's not homework. I had my reservations the moment it was even proposed. I didn't think that it was going to be a good idea and no one was actually going to go to it.

#### **Woman 3:**

I was sort of excited for it. It was going to be new and shiny! Why wouldn't anyone want to go to a brand new recreational building?

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<sup>19</sup> Lilah interview, date: 1/23/13

<sup>20</sup> Chelly interview, date: 2/01/13



**Woman 2:**

Well you know... you have to drive there.

**Woman 3:**

Coming from where we live, yes you would have to.

**Woman 2:**

And if you drive there...then you have to park there.

**Woman 3:**

(Sarcastically) Right or leave your car driving around by itself, maybe have the dog steer it for a while.

**Woman 1:**

Oh spit it out! What she is trying to say is that no one in their right mind would take the car, that their hard earned money provided them the luxury of, and park it at the Coliseum. <sup>21</sup>

**Woman 3:**

What?

**Woman 1:**

Would you want to walk into a building for an event and come back and your tires are slashed, or taken—OR WORSE—your hard earned vehicle just isn't there?<sup>22</sup>

**Woman 3:**

No but I'm don't think I particularly see the linear thread of this  $A+B=C$  reasoning.

**Woman 1:**

Well park your car on the west side and I'm pretty sure you'll see the equation, first hand. <sup>23</sup>

**Woman 3:**

So you have?

**Woman 1:**

Have you ever heard of me talking about my tires being missing or my car being stolen?

**Woman 3:**

No.

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<sup>21</sup> Lydia interview, date: 1/23/13

<sup>22</sup> Chelly interview, date: 2/01/13

<sup>23</sup> Allison interview, date: 1/24/13

**Woman 1:**

Precisely.

Lights go dim on the three women and bright on Allison and Claire, who are in their positions from before.

**Allison:**

Divide?... I'm sorry what was the question? Um...like many cities, Chicago comes to mind, there seems to be some sort of "segregation" going on, based on people's income level's mainly.<sup>24</sup> However, I don't think that the divides here are drastic. (jokingly) It's not like we have fences up to make the different *territories*, if you know what I mean.

**Claire:**

There's the east side and there's the west side, simply with that fact there is a divide.<sup>25</sup> It's like there are fences up or something! A clear marked line stating where people are supposed to be and others aren't. (Sympathetic and considering) Well not to exclude "others"... but to let them know that they aren't natives of that area—a belonged species, if you will.

(Not hearing the question) I'm sorry?

**Allison:**

Why do they exist? Well I'm not certain. Maybe some people just feel more comfortable around people that are *like* them. I don't think that it's intentional to create a homogenous community, I just think that people like to be comfortable and that comfort usually comes with familiarity and that you're more likely to experience familiarity with people who behave and identify as you do.<sup>26</sup>

OH! Also! Maybe people are more afraid of the west side because the houses are more close knit. There aren't any big lawns.<sup>27</sup>

**Allison and Claire:**

And downtown

**Claire:**

Because it's closer to the west side. Some would even consider it the west side. Some east side residents never come downtown. Like, we have the coffee hound and what

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<sup>24</sup> Carl survey, date: 1/11/13

<sup>25</sup> Betty survey, date: 1/11/13

<sup>26</sup> Sahah interview, date: 1/18/13

<sup>27</sup> Sahah interview, date: 1/18/13

do they do? They go to one of the three Starbucks on Veterans or uptown Normal Coffee Hound.<sup>28</sup>

**Allison:**

I mean, its just abandoned--<sup>29</sup>

**Claire:**

By white people<sup>30</sup>

**Allison:**

But I do think that people of Bloomington try!

**Claire:**

This town is a nurturer of racism but I don't think that I'm supposed to say that, right?<sup>31</sup>

(scouffs) You asked me. I guess you'll be careful with your next question.

**Allison:**

I'm sorry? I truly didn't hear that question. Is it me or are you all asking in a whispered tone?

What do I think of the people?

**Claire:**

I thought you were going to be careful with your next question.

Lights out on Allison and Claire.

When the lights come up we see Sarah, 22, white middle class. She is dressed very presentational and is giving a tour to a family: Bill and Mary, 43, and Liz 18, all white, upper middle class.

**Sarah:**

That's one of the things I love about Wesleyan. For it to be such a small school we have so many interesting people here.

**Bill:**

How are the classes here?

**Sarah:**

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<sup>28</sup> Lydia interview, date: 1/23/13

<sup>29</sup> April interview, date: 1/25/13

<sup>30</sup> April interview, date: 1/25/13

<sup>31</sup> April interview, date: 1/25/13

Classes are great. The student-faculty ratio is 11 to 1. We have 42 majors, eight pre-professional programs and 5 professional programs: Music, Art, Theatre, Nursing, and Business. We have a 4-4-1 academic calendar so four months in the fall, four months in the spring, and one semester in the month of May. We have over 300 study abroad programs which 50% of our students take advantage of.

**Mary:**

Do you have any organizations that the students can get involved in?

**Sarah:**

Yes! We actually have 165 student organizations here, which we call RSO or registered student organizations. Ranging from intramural RSOs to Multicultural ones. But if RSOs aren't really your thing we do have nine pan-Hellenic sororities and fraternities on campus, with 32% of our 60% enrolled women participating and 35% of our 40% of enrolled males participating in Greek life.

**Liz:**

Do you get off campus much?

**Sarah:**

Oh yeah! My friends and I go into the town to shop. They have great stores like your normal ones, Target, and the mall has like your basic department store: Abercrombie, Gap, Pacsun. You know?

**Mary:**

So you like the town?

**Sarah:**

Definitely. We have so many restaurants! In fact, we have the most restaurants per square capita.<sup>32</sup> So no matter what you're hungry for there's probably a restaurant that caters to it on Veteran's Parkway. It's really safe here. My friends and I go running on constitution trail all of the time. Really, the town is really small like from campus towards Veteran's Parkway and a bit beyond there where you get into the mini-mansion. So if you've driven by there, you may have noticed how nice and warm the atmosphere is.

**Bill:**

There's some alumni who owns some businesses downtown. Do you go there often?

**Sarah:**

Oh yeah! My friends and I go from time to time, sometimes to watch a game over some wings.

Bill and Mary walk forward to look around the building.

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<sup>32</sup> Dean interview, date: 1/30/13

**Liz:**

Hey, Sarah.

**Sarah:**

Hey! Got a question?

**Liz:**

Yeah. (gets close to Sarah, secretively) Like how are the parties, here?

**Sarah:**

(chuckles) The parties are cool. I use to go to a lot of frat parties but now that all of my friends are 21 we go to the bars, like everyone else. That's why we really go downtown, I mean the bars are the only thing down there.<sup>33</sup>

**Liz:**

(smiles) Oh, okay.

Sarah winks at Liz.

**Sarah:**

Okay. And then to our left is Dolan Hall where a lot of our first year athletes stay.

Lights out on Sarah, Liz, Bill, and Mary.

During the transition, Body 4 enters to center stage (instead of body, can be a voice over).

**Body 4:**

People aren't going to come from the east side when there are more businesses being built on the east side.<sup>34</sup> I mean it's an incredibly common pattern; as a city begins to develop or when there is some new economic boom for an area then there starts to be more residential developments moving outward towards suburbs. Here the east side is moving farther east to escape what they perceive as poverty and most of the times, to be blunt, that usually comes with ethnic minorities in those dilapidated areas.

(Pause)

There's nothing on the west side that should drive you away, its people that other people look down upon because of speech pattern and the way they dress.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Ariel interview, date: 1/23/13

<sup>34</sup> Dean interview, date: 1/30/13

<sup>35</sup> Dean interview, date: 1/30/13

#### Light out on Body 4.

When the lights come up we see four individuals dressed in black. The four individuals immediately begin to speak their line over each other. The mediator interrupts to stop the chaos.

**Mediator:**

Okay! Can we do it one at a time please?

**Individual 1:**

Privilege. State Farm. Country Club. Growth. Affluence. Rural. Subdivisions. Wide roads. No library. Middle-upper class. Well kept. Socially active. Safe. Easy-going. Laid back. Privileged. Cookie cutter. Mini-van. Richer. Nicer. Transit. No sidewalks. Stores. Starbucks. Airport. Mall. Rich. Shopping. Nurtured. Paid –attention to. White. Cement jungle. So new. Bulldozer of old. Affluence. Business. Detachment. Higher rent district. Rapid expansion. Growth.

**Individual 2:**

Marginalized. Diverse. Struggling. In-need. Lacking. Dreary. Misunderstood. Western Ave. Old houses. Food desert. Sketchy. Mysterious. Poor. Diverse. Opposite of east side. Poor. Scary. Unsafe. Questionable. Resilient. Rebuilding. Blue collar. Scary. Home. Dark. No street lights. Houses. Open fields. Unknown. Minority. Disadvantaged. Ignored. Neglected. Ignored. In-need of resources. History. Diversity. Small businesses. Charity. Slum and blithe. WBRP. Heritage neighborhoods. Evolving neighborhoods. Good people/strong bonds.

**Individual 3:**

Lively. Historical. High-potential. Struggling. Caring business owner. Stuck. Eclectic. Charming. Kelly's. Close. Upscale. Ritzy. Educational. Quaint. Resources. Disconnection. Chill. Rednecks. Hippies. Loud. Wild. Posh. Bars. Departments. Museum. Bars. Limiting. Alternate. Growing. Historical. Vibrant. Drunk. Lack-of-vision. Potential. Lively. Constantly evolving. Joint effort.

**Individual 4:**

Privilege. Educated. State Farm. Beautiful. Smaller. Mature. Green. White. Willingful. Insular. Community. Exciting. Upscale. Entertaining. Historic. Creativity. Resources. Disconnection. Racist. White. Miserable. Green. Prestigious. Exploratory. Students. Privileged. Tuition. Sheltered. Self-centered. Isolated. Beautiful campus. Education. Fabulous students. School. Home. Wesleyan bubble. Heritage area. Growth of Wesleyan. Good opportunities for community.

**Mediator:**

And those are the first words that come to mind when thinking of Bloomington?

They all nod “yes” in a ripple, one after the other, while raising the sign that states what part of Bloomington they were representing: Individual 1-east side, Individual 2- west side, Individual 3- Downtown, Individual 4-University area.

**Mediator:**

Well, what was the purpose of that?

Lights out.

When the lights come up we see Kelly, Riley, and Emilie sitting at the same table from earlier.

**Kelly:**

(yearning) Alright.

**Riley:**

(inhales) Yeah. Okay so—

Ben returns to the group room, sits down, and lets out a huge sigh.

**Riley:**

Okay, so let’s go over our list again.

Emilie is unenthused with whatever is happening in the room and more invested in her iphone at this point.

**Riley:**

So we have (1)OSF blood drive (2) football with kids (3) adopt-a-pod (4)WBRP partnership (5)Western Avenue Spanish translator program (6) west side parks make-over/maintenance program (7) digi-mail blog of business updates and (8) Franklin park carnival volunteering. Anything else?

**Emilie/Ben:**

NO!

**Kelly:**

Okay! Last thing: something with education. We could start community awareness... something where there is a committee that...I mean, I don’t know what it would be called.

**Emilie:**

Like a school board?

**Kelly:**

School board. Board of education. Something like that but—

**Emilie:**

I'm pretty sure that almost any place with a school has a school board.

**Riley:**

Of course but—

**Kelly:**

Right. School boards are very official however school board members can be very removed from the schools that the board is suppose to be over. So if we created an educational committee—how about that? Instead of a board, we create a committee that was full of community members and parents that makes sure that the school board is hearing the real issues and current issues specific to the individual schools then may be it gives the ability to make sure the kids can get the educational environment even more conducive to learning.

**Emilie:**

Who would those committee members think they are to tell the higher administrators what to do?

**Riley:**

Actually, I like the sound of that for a project. Education is an institution that has to be strong in order for the community to thrive. We know it's a real need.

**Emilie:**

What about the other options? Aren't we going to talk through all of them?

**Riley:**

Actually, I'm all for saving time so I'm just going to jump behind this education idea. I think it sounds pretty cool.

**Ben:**

Time saved? I'll jump on that ship.

**Kelly:**

It really was just an idea. I wasn't trying to say "this is the one we should definitely do". It was just a suggestion.

**Riley:**

A great suggestion. As college students we should understand a strong emphasis on education.

**Emilie:**



I just feel like we don't know enough to really make this happen and I would rather have my grade depend on something that I feel is accomplishable. If I have to spend my time on something, it should be successful. In comparison to all the other things I could be doing that are actually worth my time, this better be successful.<sup>36</sup>

Lights out on Emilie, Ben, Kelly, and Riley.

During the transition, Body 5, female enters to center stage (instead of body, can be a voice over).

**Body 5:**

Stereotype for Wesleyan is that it is full of a lot of rich people but it has a lot of people from working class families, who work hard, here.<sup>37</sup>

It's actually really pretentious.<sup>38</sup>

I feel like people don't really talk about what it is truly like here. I've lived on the west side all of my life and I would still chose to say that I feel safe but people like to paint the west side as if its in a complete state of destitute. It's my home and its home to a lot of people. It's a diamond in the rough. I love the west side. It's run down a bit but if the city were to just fix the streets and sidewalks it would look nice. This is where my home is, it's near everything I need.

See how I got distracted! This is how conversations happen in Bloomington. You ask a question and get so caught up in trying to find the good statement aside from the 100 bad statements you initially thought and so the question never gets answered!

Okay. Bloomington. This could go anyway and it's really hard to just say Bloomington as if we all are united. When I think east side I think white trash (laughs). The reason why I state this is because of the ignorance that those State Farm workers have about the west side. I have been told "Why do you live there?!" as if my 18 year old self can dictate where I live. And they say other things and stuff like this or worse that has caused me to have negative feelings towards them and a perception of what their community must be like... what their kids are like.<sup>39</sup> And I used to feel like may be it wasn't fair but these aren't things that I've made up! These are things that I have experienced first hand and unless you're going to tell me I

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<sup>36</sup> Ariel interview, date: 1/23/13

<sup>37</sup> Alyssa interview, date: 1/18/13

<sup>38</sup> Dean, Ariel, Alyssa, several interviews, date: varies

<sup>39</sup> Maya survey, date: 1/13/13

swallowed the wrong color pill from the hand of Leo then I think it's not a perception it's a real depiction.

Lights out on Body 5.

When the lights come up we see a teacher and students in a class discussion, sitting in an arc of chairs.

**Professor:**

We have a lot of rich things that our Bloomington community offers us. Who can name some things?

**Student 1:**

The Framer's market.

**Professor:**

That's right. The farmer's market, offered every Saturday in the morning. I really am a fan. I ride my bike up there and fill my satchel with as much produce that I can. And you know what really made me a super supporter?! The fact that some Wesleyan students worked with the farmers to get the Link machine accepted so that families who are receiving government aid can also purchase fresh produce. This is a huge deal!

**Student 2:**

Yeah, I know that Deborah Helprin always tells us in ARC how the west side is a food desert.<sup>40</sup>

**Student 3:**

Food desert? What they have zero food? (chuckles)

**Professor:**

Not quite. What—

**Student 2:**

Yeah, like what it means is that the west side has little access to like grocery stores that have fresh and affordable foods that help maintain a healthy diet.<sup>41</sup>

**Student 4:**

So one day someone just said "There's no fresh food in Bloomington. It's a desert." And then the term just applied?

**Student 2:**

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<sup>40</sup> Susie interview, date: 1/30/13

<sup>41</sup> Lilah interview, date: 1/23/13

Well, no. The federal government actually said “Ohhhh sooo, this area, west Bloomington, is a food desert”.

**Student 5:**

But there are grocery stores on the west side. They have a Kroger and a Walmart.

**Professor:**

This is true. Now think of the number of grocery stores on the east side. I can count five that are just on Veterans between Washington St. and Fort Jesse Rd.

**Student 2:**

Also, look at the stores you just named; beside there being only two. That Kroger is the size of the dug-out area and the produce section is almost two rooms joined in Pfeiffer. The produce selections are also really crappy. Sometimes I go there and there is not a type of fruit where 45% of it isn't rotten already. The green selection all expires in like two days from the date you see it and it's just a really shitty selection. It's one thing to me—a student—who has the option of ordering food or making one of my friends take me to a restaurant—but for families where this is their only choice—(exhales, defeated).

**Student 3:**

A grocery store is a grocery store.

**Student 4:**

So says ye who drives to Jewell Osco for groceries.

All of the students, except Student 3 laughs.

**Student 3:**

Shut up.

**Professor:**

No but there really is an issue when it comes to accessible and fresh food for the residents in west Bloomington so much so that there are constantly people who work diligently to figure out how to fix it.

**Student 4:**

So why hasn't it been fixed, yet?

**Professor:**

Well, it's not just a Bloomington thing. It's a national issue. So it's difficult--

**Student 2:**

Why is it that every time we start talking about problems, and this is in general, its common for people to turn it to a bigger picture? Could this not be a reason why we stand stagnant and nothing ever gets solved because we are too worried about the

problem at a distance instead of looking at what's wrong and what we can do, in the now, to alleviate the problem?

Silence. The professor begins deep pondering to answer the question.

**Professor:**

Because some things are just difficult.

**Student 2:**

But isn't "difficult" a perception of the amount of ability not the fact that the ability is depleted? Some things, of course, will be difficult in contrast to easy things but it doesn't make it that much closer to impossible. I mean, I don't know.

**Student 3:**

See—

**Student 2:**

No. I do know! I just feel like that's an excuse. But its worse than when people normally use the "it's not easy" excuse because people's basic survival needs are in jeopardy.

**Student 3:**

I mean, who is really supposed to help anyway?

Lights out on classroom.

During the transition, Body 6 enters to center stage (instead of body, can be a voice over).

**Body 6:**

I haven't been here for long so I don't have an opinion of the east side or of other areas of Bloomington. The west side is probably the more "menacing" side of town, in the sense that it is not really a place you want to be just in case, or so I've heard at least.

...Menacing is probably not the correct word to use. Maybe the side to be most cautious compared to the rest of the city?

I may be wrong but the east side maybe the more affluent/thriving side of the city.<sup>42</sup> Overall I think that Bloomington is a family friendly town. It's almost like a

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<sup>42</sup> Carl survey, date: 1/11/13

Metropolitan.<sup>43</sup>It's a safe, easy going, and laid back place. <sup>44</sup> There's much more racial and sexual tolerance.

### Lights out on Body 6.

When the lights come back up we see Emilie, Ben, Kelly, and Riley at the table. They are in different clothes, suggesting a new day.

**Ben:**

Okay. So this education community committee thing...

**Riley:**

Yes! This education community committee thing has been our selection for our project. Now we just need to figure out the logistics and specify exactly what we plan to do and how we plan to do it.

**Kelly:**

Well, for starters we know our focus will be on district 87 schools clearly they're the one who need additional resources.<sup>45</sup>

**Emilie:**

Is that fair for you to make that call? What gives you the right to label them "in need"?

**Kelly:**

(scouffs) Well, I wasn't labeling them in-need. I was just stating why this is clearly our focus. We wanted to do a project—or needed to do a project that catered to an actual need in the community. We have, through several resources such as Deborah and the Pantograph, identified the west side as the area that could use some community help—additional help, and being that the school districts depends on your local address and district 87 kids come from the west side I just thought it was implied that district 87 is the district that is in-need of additional resources.<sup>46</sup>

**Ben:**

(jokingly) Okay so "meow" ladies. Put your claws back in your paws. Let's agree to agree that Superman is the best superhero and that our project will be focusing on the west side.

**Riley:**

Right. Ben, I agree to agree—

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<sup>43</sup> Gloria survey, date: 1/13/13

<sup>44</sup> Drew survey, date: 1/13/13

<sup>45</sup> Drew survey, date: 1/13/13

<sup>46</sup> Drew survey, date: 1/13/13

**Kelly:**

Me too.

**Riley:**

Good, now---

**Emilie:**

See, no, wait. I don't agree. I don't agree that it's suppose to be assumed that they need additional community help.

**Riley:**

What do you mean?

**Emilie:**

I mean, like the parents. Don't you think it comes back to the parent's ability to support the children? That it would lead to better chances for the students?<sup>47</sup>

**Kelly:**

Sure. That's true however I think you are thinking within a given situation.

**Emilie:**

A given situation?

**Kelly:**

Yes. Like, if the parents had resources to then become responsible for. However there is a great deal of parents who just don't have resources or even the means to access the resources. There's a reason why the promise pack, where schools send can goods home with kids so that they can eat on the weekend, exists.<sup>48</sup>

**Emilie:**

Wait... so what are you really trying to have us do here?

**Kelly:**

What are you talking about?

**Emilie:**

The Promise Pack is a long standing thing that constantly needs leadership—someone running it. Do you expect us to have to be invested I this long-term?

There is a pause-a silence that occurs.

**Kelly:**

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<sup>47</sup> Allison interview, date: 1/24/13

<sup>48</sup> Lilah interview, date: 1/23/13

I mean, I hadn't really thought that far. But it still doesn't change me supporting this idea. If we can make sure that it has some substance then the community members that get involved can figure out its sustainability.

**Emilie:**

And if they can't because part of me feels like if they could then it would already be happening. So if they can't?

**Kelly:**

Well...what?

**Emilie:**

See, I don't think we are thinking realistically about this. We are not marching in there on a white horse. I am to be no one's savior. I have my own issues to try and figure out and I am in no position to be able to help people who I don't even understand.

**Kelly:**

Well that individualistic.

**Emilie:**

Yes and it's honest. We are not apart of that community.

**Kelly:**

No. Emilie. Wait. Yes But—

**Emilie:**

We can help but it's not our community to revitalize!<sup>49</sup>

**Kelly:**

Then whose is it? UH? Who helps? Who invests? Just the individuals on that side? Huh? The families that can't afford it, invest in it...solely? Huh? Who helps? Because if it's not those who see it and who not only have the resources but also the means to the resources that helps... then tell me who should! Huh? Who helps?! Who is suppose to help?!

There is an intense silence that falls on the room and all that is heard is the heavy breathing of Kelly. Lights out on the Group.

During the transition, Body 7, female enters to center stage (instead of body, can be a voice over and should an actress who plays one of the three women).

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<sup>49</sup> Lilah interview, date: 1/23/13

**Body 7:**

I do not feel any issues that impact the Bloomington community. I find that each community in the Bloomington area specified thus far is well occupied with its own affairs which allows the entire Bloomington area to function as a whole. If there were any issues in the Bloomington community, I believe that it would be between different ethnic groups in the population.<sup>50</sup>

**Lights out on Body 7.**

When the lights come up we see Hal and June in their positions from before. Hal is still reading his newspaper and June is quietly sipping her coffee, yet there is a feel that implies that June wants to say something.

**June:**

Yes! Poverty, crime, politics, and drugs are all issues!<sup>51</sup>

Hal looks up, nonchalantly from his newspaper.

**Hal:**

(teasingly) I'm sorry, Junebug, did you say something?

**June:**

Hal.

**Hal:**

That's my name, don't wear it out.

**June:**

Hal!

**Hal:**

Have anyone ever told you that you get more bees with honey than with vinegar?

**June:**

Hal!

**Hal:**

Yeah, I never really liked that saying either.

**June:**

(defeated and angry) Oh my God...

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<sup>50</sup> Willa survey, date: 1/14/13

<sup>51</sup> Kerrigan survey, date: 1/14/13



**Hal:**

Oh Junebug, what is it? Why can't you just let it go? That's why I read the newspaper, because it doesn't need a conversation. If we have a conversation on politics, it'll probably end with you feeling angered by something that I have said...and meant.

**June:**

Anyway, so you see a discrimination based on class, race, and sexual orientation?<sup>52</sup>

**Hal:**

Sure.

**June:**

Based on...?

**Hal:**

Based on the language barrier. The high demand for translators such as in health departments, schools, etc. It's apparent when looking at the west side in comparison to the east. Look at what most of the essential things such as food, water, and education caters to.<sup>53</sup> There are huge economic issues that people don't see and a huge population that is growing yet steadily struggling financially. Hell, look at the city council.<sup>54</sup>

**June:**

What about the city council?

**Hal:**

What does it look like June?

**June:**

Look like?

**Hal:**

Yes, June. When you look at it what do you see?

**June:**

I see businessmen and women. Executives who are working for Bloomington.

Hal laughs.

**June:**

What? What do you see?

**Hal:**

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<sup>52</sup> Amelia interview, date: 01/25/13

<sup>53</sup> Amelia interview, date: 01/25/13

<sup>54</sup> Laura interview, date: 01/23/13

No one who looks like me and everyone who looks like you.

**June:**

WHAT? Hal. There's Mboka Mwilambwe!

**Hal:**

One out of nine! Nine, June! Nine!

**June:**

He's still not white!

**Hal:**

He's African! Do you see any Africans on the west side? Who do you see there?! Majority Blacks and Latinos. Do you see any Blacks or Latinos on the council? An alderman? Do you see anyone who's from the west side?

**June:**

No but—

**Hal:**

No "buts" June! We aren't being represented yet we're supposed to believe that we're being considered? That our needs are actually relevant in the discussions about community planning, economic development, and needs? <sup>55</sup>

**June:**

I don't know. I—it's just hard for me to complain about the city council when I don't really know what they are doing. <sup>56</sup>

**Hal:**

June, its not complicated to see. Its simple.

**June:**

Hal, I just don't see it like that.

**Hal:**

I know you don't... but we're underrepresented. <sup>57</sup>

**Light out on Hal and June.**

**When the lights come up we see Allison and Claire in their position from before.**

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<sup>55</sup> Hal interview, date: 01/30/13

<sup>56</sup> Cindy interview, date: 01/28/13

<sup>57</sup> Hal interview, date: 01/30/13

**Claire:**

Disgusting privileged people who just want to see other perfect copies of themselves. Don't even get me started on Bloomington's obsession with the "Americanization" bullshit.<sup>58</sup>

**Allison:**

Immigration? Well many of the families I've come across have issues with officials due to their immigration status---<sup>59</sup>

**Claire:**

Like they get detained for driving without a license. <sup>60</sup>

**Allison:**

I mean, its so sad when I talk to these families. Their entire lives are controlled by the fact that they are illegal but there are U.S. policies that exist for a reason. You know? Like. Its hard but we all have rules we have to follow, you know? No ones asking them to leave but we asking that they go through the official paper work to be included in the country. To be able to work for a fair pay.

What? Yes I am aware that they may get sent out of the country but it won't be forever. They can come back and try following the protocol the second time. That way they have earned their citizenship—their stay and no one can take that from them.

**Lights out on Allison.**

**Claire:**

I just think that Bloomington would thrive better as a sanctuary for undocumented immigrants.<sup>61</sup> Like, if they had more organizations and businesses that provided info, workshop, and just aided immigrants in becoming documented. Like, if you just got to a country how are you expected to know all of its policy? Most Americans don't even know the policies! I mean a complete reform would be best but then we're talking about the federal government which is just a bigger demonstration of the Bloomington government so I don't see officials caring enough to make that happen, you know?<sup>62</sup> Like, what's it to them? Nothing.

I mean, nothing really going to happen until we all see the big picture. The one big solid picture, you know? The one that shows all of us. (scuffs) Like we all become each other's keeper, in a sense. But until then, I guess kids are just to starve, education is just to fail certain populations, and universities cater to certain classes, organizations over exhaust themselves trying to provide for families while people

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<sup>58</sup> April interview, date: 1/25/13

<sup>59</sup> Lucy survey, date: 01/15/13

<sup>60</sup> Lucy survey, date: 01/15/13

<sup>61</sup> Lucy survey, date: 01/15/13

<sup>62</sup> Lucy survey, date: 01/15/13

with resources ignore it, throw away money on material fads and point fingers at who should be doing something to help. Right?

(scuffs) Well that will be one hell of a view in our backyard.

Lights out on Claire.

When the lights come up we see Woman 1, Woman 2, and Woman 3 sitting in their positions from before.

**Woman 3:**

And our last bullet point of today's meeting: the comment. What shall we do with it?

**Woman 1:**

(sighs) I'm so disappointed that we even put this on the agenda!

**Woman 3:**

We had to. It was an issue brought to us and by policy we have to at least discuss it.

**Woman 2:**

Refresh my mind on said comment.

**Woman 3:**

(sighs) Quote: People here in Bloomington are aware of the divide, whether or not they want to acknowledge it as something else, but they are aware that it exists.<sup>63</sup> And it's the official's, such as the Bloomington Historic Preservation Society, job to figure out how to systematically fix it.

**Woman 2:**

(SIGHS) Do they know how hard we work? We truly do not have nor need this in our job descriptions.

**Woman 3:**

So what are we going to do about it? I mean it's apparent that we need to have a coherent vision of what we want the downtown to be—what we Bloomington to be, events that center around that vision, and support not only from the government but from the community if we want Bloomington to be a great American city.<sup>64</sup>

**Woman 1:**

See, I don't think that's our purpose as a historic preservation society. We fundraise, we cherish the traditions. That's how it's always been.

**Woman 2:**

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<sup>63</sup> Violet interview, date:01/27/13

<sup>64</sup> Dean interview, date:01/30/13

So with this comment, what are we going to do?

Light out on the three women.

**The End.**



Raven Stubbs  
Works Cited

*Invisible Lines*  
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- Appleruth, Scott and Laura Desfour Edles. *Classical and Contemporary Sociological Theory: Texts and Readings*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Newbury Park: Pine Forge Press, 2011. Print.

Through this text I was able to learn about the standpoint theory and it's important to a person's perspective and their interpretation of things. It was also through this text that I was able to learn about sociological dramaturgy and how all behaviors, especially those in an interview, are performative.

- Bing, Chandler. "Cleaning up your Act". *The Argus* 4 Feb. 2013: Electronic <<http://blogs.iwu.edu/argus/2013/02/04/cleaning-up-your-act/>>

Through this post I was able to take a look at what was some of the things occurring in the university community that were perceptions of varying social class interactions.

- . "RA Questions Race Dynamics within Office of Residential Life". *The Argus* 16 Nov. 2013: Electronic <<http://blogs.iwu.edu/argus/2012/11/16/ra-questions-race-dynamics-within-office-of-residential-life/>>

Through this post I was able gain a perspective on systematic frictions within the university community as they pertain to race on campus.

- Bloom, Michael. *Thinking like a Director*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: Faber and Faber, Inc., 2001. Print.

Through this text I was able to learn critical skills in text analyzing which allowed me to make sure that through my writing of the play, the play had a story that was capable of visual execution and audience comprehension.

- Bonney, Jo. *Extreme Exposure: An Anthology of Solo Performance Text from the Twentieth Century*. New York: Theatre Communications Group, Inc., 2000. Print.

Through this text and the selection of Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight*: Los Angeles, 1992 that I received an example of how verbatim text can be made into a theatrical piece.

- Butler, Isaac, "In News that Should Surprise No One...". *Parabasis*. 11 Feb. 2013. <<http://parabasis.typepad.com/blog/2013/02/in-news-that-should-surprise-no-one.html>>

Through this specific blog post I was able to hear about the representation of minorities in American theatre; which then allowed me to have prior knowledge on some of the race and social class dynamics that are happening on a larger scale. This prior knowledge

allowed me to be able to recognize race and social class issues that were specific to the Bloomington community (that my interviewees mentioned) in comparison to the ones that were reflections of our nation's current state, in regards to those issues.

- Cohen-Cruz, Jan. *Engaging Performance: Theatre as Call and Response*. New York: Routledge, 2010. Print.

Through this text I gained some insightful advice regarding the playwrights job being that of the "messenger and to set the term of the theatrical experience".

- Favorini, Attilio. *Representation and Reality: The Case of Documentary Theatre*. Electronic.

Through this text I learned the representation and reality theory that provided lens in which to look at the shaping of my piece which is expressed in my reflection paper.

- Fly, Margot, et al. *Doing Qualitative Research: Circles within Circles*. Bristol: The Falmer Press, 1991. Print.

Through this text I was able to read and relate as well as learn how to deal with the emotional backlash of qualitative research, in which I had not anticipated.

- Fortier, Mark. *Theory/Theatre: An Introduction*. New York: Routledge, 2002. Print.

Through this text I learned much of the theory that provided lens in which to look at the shaping of my piece, especially the reader-response and reception theory.

- Graff, Gerald and Cathy Birkenstein. *They Say/ I Say*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2010. Print.

Through this text I was able to understand how to successfully place two independent and opposing arguments in the same *space* yet still allowing them both to be powerful and equally represented.

- Hales, David A. "City Manager's Monthly Report". Vol. 5. City of Bloomington Illinois Feb 2013: Electronic

<http://www.cityblm.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentid=5091>

Through this site I was able to look at the perception of what is happening in the Bloomington community from a governmental/leadership point of view. This report served as a resource of statics to accompany some of the things that my interviewees spoke of such as city construction and where the construction was located. It also provided me with a face of the demographics of leadership and representation that was brought into view by some of my interviewees.

- Marcus, Dave. "Why Big Non Profit Theatres will Never Diversify". Spotlight Right. 15 Feb. 2013: Electronic

<http://spotlightright.blogspot.com/2013/02/why-non-profit-theater-will-never.html>



Through this post I was able to take a look at some of the issues plaguing the US's progressiveness towards institutionalized diversity as well as identify the "weight of whiteness" that would be presented through class issues of the Bloomington community.

- Prendergast, Monica and Juliana Saxton. *Applied Theatre: International Case Studies and Challenges for Practice*. Chicago: Intellect, The University of Chicago Press, 2009. Print.

Through this text I was able to read on the structural elements associated with several different types of theatre that I knew my piece would take the shape of including community based theatre, theatre of the oppressed, and theatre in education.

- Rohd, Michael and Laura Eason. *Hidden*. Electronic.

Through this text I was able to experience a non-sequential, non-linear version of an ethno-drama play. This play provided me with a solid example of verbatim text whose theatricality came from the style of delivering it which included working off of what the audiences pre-conceives assumptions were regarding certain things.

- Springel, Tia. "The "Truth" Lies in the Television". *The Argus* 21 Jan. 2013: Electronic <<http://blogs.iwu.edu/argus/2013/01/21/the-truth-lies-in-the-television/>>

Through this post I was able to attention to a contemporary critique and analysis on how my generation's version of news is beginning to become bias but in an even more controversial spirit: my generation seeks for, expects and is comfortable with bias news.

- Sobota, Lenore. "Dist.87 Mover Closes to \$2M in Budget Cuts." *Pantagraph* 13 February 2013: Electronic <[www.pantagraph.com](http://www.pantagraph.com)>

Through this article I was able to educate myself on how the financial issues of Bloomington affects the education system and more specifically District 87 being that most of my interviewees mentioned the disadvantages and the need for the District 87 schools; which are filled with majority ethnic minorities from the west side community.

- Trauth, Suzanne M. and Lisa S. Brenner. *Katrina on Stage: Five Plays*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2011. Print.

Through this text and its play, *The Breach*, I was able to see a first- hand example of an ethno drama, interview- based text tuned into a conceptual piece of text as well as a completed play.

- Voicing the Silent "e". "10 Commandments of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century American Theatre- Through the eyes of a Yellow Face". *My Kaleidoscope Life*. 20 Feb. 2013: Electronic <[http://elizascope.blogspot.com/2013/02/10-commandments-for-21st-century\\_20.html](http://elizascope.blogspot.com/2013/02/10-commandments-for-21st-century_20.html)>

Through this post I was able to extend my understanding of the standpoint theory as well as reevaluate its position within the script that I was creating. This post along with some of my other resources led to my decision of not placing any of my verbatim text to a character that did not have the same gender, race, and social class as the interviewee who had originally produced the text.

- Weinert-Kendt, Rob. "Daisy Give Me Your Answers Do". The Wicked Stage. 20 Feb. 2013: Electronic < <http://thewickedstage.blogspot.com/2013/02/daisey-give-me-your-answer-do.html> >

Through this post I was able to learn about the manipulation of text in verbatim theatre, the provocative approach to the production as well as its affect on the audience and getting the message across. I also was able to see another example of how verbatim theatre can be done.

- Witherspoon, Nia. "Re-Imagining the Imagination: A meditation on Unicorns". Howlround. 13 Feb. 2013: Electronic < <http://journalism.howlround.com/re-imagining-the-imagination-a-meditation-on-unicorns-by-nia-witherspoon/> >

Through this post I was able to read how members of the minority groups are looking to their representation from contemporary theatre to reaffirm their belonging in society.