

Introduction to Literature
Oglala Lakota College - Fall, 2015
Acting Together Student Responses:

“I was really interested in the video, because I do believe art can tell a story that is hard for you to voice. Watching the video gave me the chills and made me think of how it would actually feel if I was there in person, watching. I know theater can be used as a weapon of peace for others, but also to yourself, your soul and mind.”

“I saw trust formed with the Cambodians; when the play was over they were scared because of the noise from the firecrackers, but when it was done they did not want to leave. These plays can create peace not only within oneself but also with others.”

“The Argentinean story from Act I was similar to what happened to our people in The Wounded Knee Massacre, where men, women, and children were killed. All of the plays that I watched held my attention, and it was interesting to learn about what had happened in each country’s history of being colonized, denied to speak their language, oppressed, and abused. So, not only us as Native Americans had to endure this abuse and torture, but many minorities from all around the world.”

“In Acting Together it seems as if these artists are doing their best to help their people, and show them peace through the plays they create. I think it’s a really strong message. Theater arts can be used all around the world to help people.”

“Communication that has a radical message would have confrontational results to the opposing side. Art is a buffer, and it helps alleviate the tension if the message is presented to someone for interpretation. Instead of being in someone’s face disputing each other’s beliefs, you allow them to let their guard down, and give them the option to understand your message.”

“I think it was interesting that just a simple act of putting on a play can help so many races be interconnected.”

“The stories were so powerful. So powerful they started healing people who could relate.”

“I really like how every story came from a different culture and had a broad historic meaning to it. Some of these stories really had a way to grab at my heartstrings and show people how others have damaged their culture, and explain how the historical trauma has impacted their people.”

Some students expressed that the video brought them back to memories of events that they don’t like to think about, but that this in itself was a healing experience.