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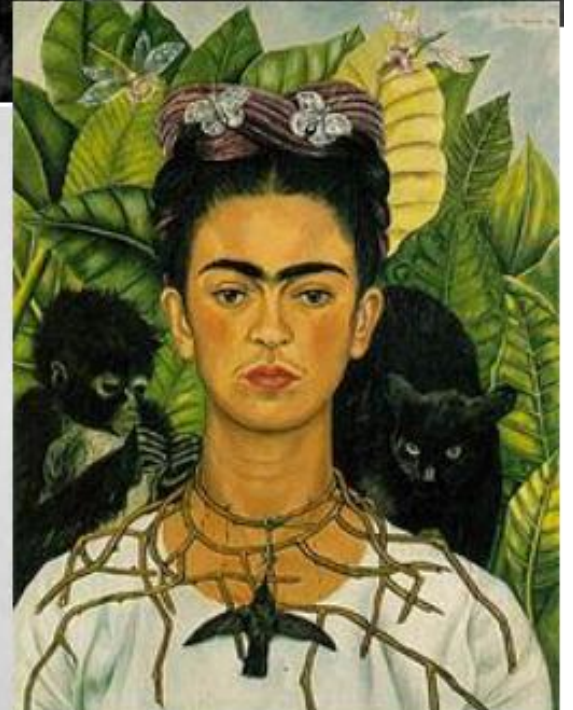
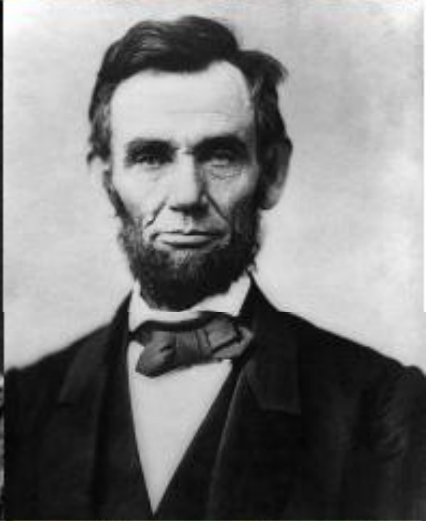
IMAGES OF SECOND SEMESTER



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MAKING A CASE FOR SEMESTER TWO



Zeynab Ahmed

I am responsible. When I start something, I make sure I complete it, no matter what, because I am counting on myself. I consider

myself an advocate for many things; hence my interests lie around that. For the major part, I join organizations that include dealing with diversity issues and multiculturalism.

One of my major goals is completing my bachelor's degree. That goal is really important to me because I am the first person in my family to attend college, and I want my siblings to follow in my footsteps.

This class has been overwhelmingly interesting. Literature always seemed hard for me, but this class made me discover that it isn't that hard and I was actually interested and fascinated by it.



Isis Bernard

During this semester in Odyssey, I have learned so much about art, history, philosophy, etc. Learning about Socrates' sacrifice has been one of my favorite things to learn about because it forces you to

think outside of the box. During this class I have become so excited about my education and so ready to learn more. Being surrounded with so many driven people is a great energy to have while learning. I have also learned how to adjust my schedule to be a better student. I have finally realized how to prioritize and what is truly important.



I don't know what I would do if I wasn't in the Odyssey program next semester. The people have become family, and the education has truly become second nature. I think anyone who can should try and join for next fall. I love Odyssey!!!



Christopher Bester

I really enjoyed the class and the people in it. I've never participated in class as much as I have this year. I'm a person who does not like to speak in front of class, but you have changed that about me. I don't mind any more.

My goal is to do well at UW-Whitewater, to focus on school and in the classroom, and to put my books before football. I've learned so much in this time about ways to open up my mind and think outside the box. I have come a long way from where I used to stand in the classroom. I take my education seriously. I try to improve on things every week.

**LaPrice Black**

I'm describing myself as a very motivated person with a great desire to learn new and incredible things. I have gained great knowledge and understanding about reading and improving my

writing in the Odyssey class.

My interest is to continue my education as a writer or an Echocardiograph Technician.

I wish there was a part two and three because I have enjoyed learning in this class. Entering the second semester, I have plans to stay organized, focus, and do extra work to make my time in this class be exceptionally great. I will work on my *Least You Should Know about English* book. It will be the book I will complete while on this month vacation. Plus I will read me a good book to improve my reading skills. I just can't believe that the first semester is over already.

**Mallory Carter**

I have learned so much in the Odyssey Project this semester. I have learned how to open up and be more outspoken. I used to love writing and haven't done it in years. Being in Odyssey

has helped bring back the love I have for writing and learning. I just start warming up and learning new things. I need to be in second semester because I have so much more to learn and experience. Like I said before, this is my stepping stone to reaching my career.

Odyssey has been such a blessing to my kids and me. I have met a wonderful group of friends and classmates. My interest is learning any and everything that my professors throw my way. I love

to learn new things. Sometimes I wish there was someone around other than my kids that I can share my experience and knowledge with since I've been in the Odyssey Project. I had never heard of William Blake, Socrates, or Romare Bearden. So I thank you, Emily. I look forward to learning more new things next semester.

**Lucia Chikowero**

I have learnt a lot in my first year with the Odyssey Project. It opened my eyes to the American education system. When I started the classes, I had serious issues with run-ons, fragments etc., but

this past semester has greatly improved my writing capabilities. I enjoyed the insight I got in the American History and Philosophy classes, too. These courses including Literature and the Study Skills courses pushed me beyond my limits in terms of doing my homework and reading assignments. I always made sure I handed in my work on time, which showed a great amount of discipline, especially balancing it off with a family.

I would love to be in Odyssey again for the second semester as this class will forever be the foundation to my education. My journey has begun, and to you, Professor Emily, I give you the



promise that I gave my mum and reiterated when you interviewed me: I will never let you down, and your work is not going to be in vain. I shall give you my all, and I will not stop until I get at least a Master's degree, although my aim is for a Ph.D. I want to fulfill what my mum would have wanted for herself, and I am also doing this to show my daughter that the sky is the limit; you just have to apply yourself.

By the way, all the work that you grade I go home and show my daughter. She also does some grading of her own. Whenever I leave them to come for class, she tells me exactly what I tell her every morning. She always says, "Have a good time and make us proud." So I really, really wish for me to be in class for second semester.



Kunga Chokten

When I applied for the Odyssey program, I was at a very low point in my life and wasn't anywhere near where I pictured I would be at this age.

Since then, Odyssey has helped me connect to a lot of useful outlets and inspired me to be the best I can be. Since Odyssey started, I've started college again and have also got a part time job now. Things haven't been easy, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Nothing worthy ever comes easily.



Charlienne Cotto

I feel that I should be in the second semester because I've already learned so much. When I first began this journey, I didn't know what I was getting myself into. I

thought that this was just "school" and I would have "teachers." Boy, was I fooled! What I got instead was a wonderful team of inspirational

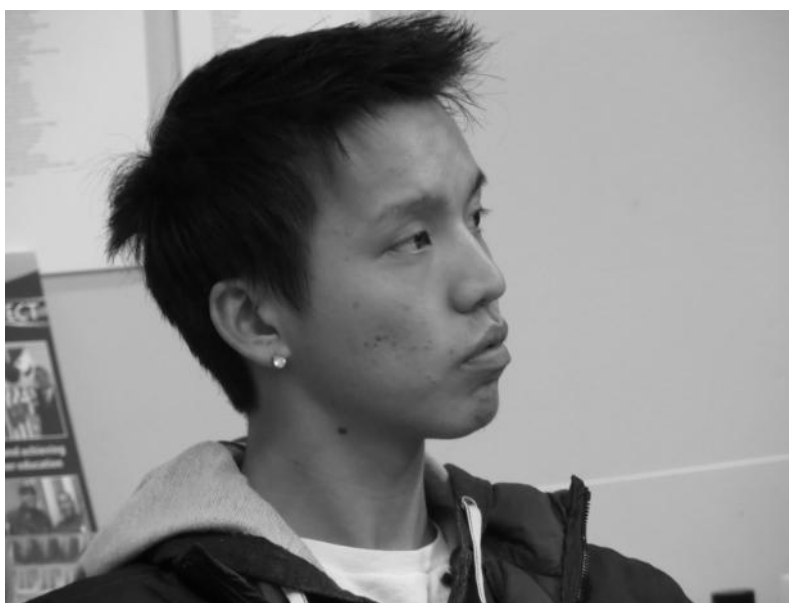
"leaders" who care in an amazing way about education, enlightenment, and seeing people succeed. I've met Mr. Blake, Mr. Wordsworth, and my favorite: Socrates. I've been to the Chazen Museum and have a UW ID card. All of these are dreams that I would never have thought would come true. I am truly obliged to everyone who supports this amazing program. Truly it has been a blessing to us all.



Nafisa 'Nifty' Davis

I wish to continue because the journey is life to me. I find myself hungry for what this program offers to me: knowledge, support, friends, a new lease on my life, and a newfound joy to learning

information. I adore this class. It gives me hope



for my future and a chance to be an asset to this world! I've learned just from Allegory of the Cave these hidden areas in my mind. I need to clean them out and let light in so I can grow. I also understand through the Bearden display how he used cut outs to express a proud people and what he felt they brought to the world.

I need this class. It's my backbone to go forward.

**Tracker Dunn**

Odyssey has touched me in a lot of ways, and it has truly changed how I think and see things intellectually. I sincerely hope that this moment will be a turning point for me. I want

to achieve my dream and make my family proud of me for once in my adult life. I want to prove to myself that I have the courage to tackle the challenges, even though I have been dominated by them thus far.

The Odyssey Project has been a boon in my life. I have not achieved all or even half of what I have set out to do, but still I have undergone a change in the way I feel and think.

I have been touched equally by the content I am exposed to and the people I have met. I feel I have a place where I belong in the Odyssey family, which means so much to me. It has been a blessing to be a part of this experience, and it continues to be a place where I feel free and safe.

I look forward to completing my metamorphosis and standing as part of an amazing collection of people.



clearer view on what I want to continue my education for. I have different goals for my family than before. I know I want different things in life for my children.

I have learned through this class that there are so many opportunities for me and my family in this world. I learned that I can learn and that it is not a hard thing as long as I focus. Before this semester in Odyssey, I felt as though I was in one box. Now I know how to get out of that box and to move forward. I will teach my children to move forward after they make mistakes in life. Don't beat yourself up. Just learn and keep moving.

**Jakieta Fairley**

I have learned so much about myself in this semester. I've learned how creative I really think. I've learned to accept people for who they really are and get to know a person before you judge them. You

might just have many things in common with that person. My interests have changed lots in the class. I'm now interested in history, writing poems, and looking at different art work. I have different author interests now. It seems as though through Odyssey my whole world is changing. My goals about life have changed also. I now have a little

**Jaquan Fleming**

I am writing this to state that I would love to continue this program next semester because I truly say my mind has grown with so much information. I've learned things that I never knew of, and it's made me

already change my ideas on certain stuff we have learned. The Frederick Douglass writing struck a side of my mind that I didn't know existed. I've also connected to myself by writing little poems down. It has really helped me.

My goals are to go to college, and I still have lots to

learn. Another goal is to educate myself to be a better person and to show myself that I can do it. I would love to continue this program and show I can do lots better on my work and writing.



Kelli Green

I have learned so much in this class and have much more to learn in the second half. One of my goals is to pass

with a good grade, so I can't do that if I'm not in the second half.

Don't take this wonderful opportunity away from me when I'm half through.



remove obstacles in my way of getting an education.



Jamie Hanson

I am a focused, responsible, grateful student of the Odyssey Project. It is important to me that I come to class every week with my mind prepared to learn the material and participate in class

discussion. I expect to remember this journey for the rest of my life. I want to continue my education, starting with Odyssey, moving on to Madison College for my associate's degree, and finally going to the UW for my bachelor's degree in Horticulture.

I am a single mother of two boys who are inspired by my hard work to provide them with a better future through higher education.

I have learned how to engage in intellectual conversations with educated people in my community. I have gained confidence in my ability to learn. I have more self-worth because I have been blessed with this opportunity to know people who believe in me and want to help

I have what it takes to make this program a useful tool in jumpstarting my education. The Odyssey Project is just the beginning of my college journey. I have no doubt that I will get my degree!

Thank you for taking a chance on me, believing in me, and extending support in enabling me to get my education. My children, my community, and I have already greatly benefited from my experience in the program.



LaTrease Hibbler

I am motivated to figure out what's inside of me and what's outside of me. On my strongest days, I hold Odyssey Project (and my daughter) accountable, especially the dynamic rhythm of the professors.

My goal is to reshape and remold my reality. By examining my inability to make a change, not a simple change but one that will lead many

millions from debasing depths, I've created a purposeful building. The structure of my interests, values, skills, resources, and personal qualities will align and rule out the condition I'm susceptible to.

Realistically, I'll enjoy many facets of life/wisdom/knowledge complete with vitalizing nourishment. Through the Odyssey Project, my soul recharges like the sunlight directing the rays into existence.

This course/class is vitality and strengthening to my character. Odyssey goes into my head, soothes my dream. How strangely appropriate: Odyssey is realigning and justifying my character, allowing my soul to be at ease. I have learned to justify nothing, question everything, and allow my mind to wander into the heavens, projecting truth, understanding/embracing that I am the truth.



Nyagoa Hoth

Since being accepted into the Odyssey Project, I have gained so much confidence. Before I started class (but after learning of my acceptance), I applied for a course in Information Technology with the

Urban League of Greater Madison. There were very few spots and I was not sure I would get in, but getting into the Odyssey Project made me visualize my future and my ideal career in the field of IT. The confidence that I got made it possible for me to interview and get into the IT course. I am now working an internship in IT. With the Odyssey Project, I can go on to get my degree in Computer Science and make my dreams a reality.

In second semester, it is my goal to do better than my first

semester. I have learned so much so far, and yet I feel like I have not learned enough! I am hungry for knowledge, and I will continue learning because I learned that is what life is about. Being here in Odyssey is an experience I had never imagined. I can't even think about being done with Odyssey because I never want to leave. But I will leave, with six credits and a plan for the future.



Robert James

Each and every week I learn multiple things from each professor. Before this class, I was somewhat intimidated by art, philosophy, certain historical documents, and classical literature.

I feel blessed to have had so much caring instruction in all these areas. I can truly say I have learned so much, and my gratitude grows every time I attend class. I would also like to say the homework is always thought provoking and challenging. In conclusion, I would like to relate that not only am I learning but often my whole family learns, as I am often on fire with ideas inspired by this class.



**Milli Lau**

I haven't changed my goal of getting into business school at UW-Madison after I was admitted into the Odyssey Project. In this project, I still have a hard time understanding lectures. However, I try my best to fix my problems. I found that my pronunciation and writing have improved through meeting with tutors and asking professors questions. I start to talk with more of my classmates than before. It is the first time I feel I am a part of a class even though I have already finished many credit classes. I believe that this class can help me improve my English the way I wanted before. I have found a lot of support in this project and know I will never be rejected by my teachers when I need help. I hope I can continue in this class to experience something that I have never experienced in the past few years.

**Simone Lawrence**

I have taken a lot out of this first semester. I am missing a few things and should be farther. But this first semester helped me realize that I want to put more work into my learning, so I will be working harder next time. I have opened my mind to a lot of different things because of what I have learned in class. Philosophy has shown me that I love the way our minds work and create different outlooks. History has given me a motivation for our community. Art History is opening my mind to some of the more priceless things about life. And Literature is really showing me that I need more work in writing! But I am enjoying it and am thankful to be able to learn the beauty in words. I never knew I



could care so much about how I sound through words. Now it's time to learn the ins and outs!

**Vanessa Lopes Maia**

I am a very motivated person who goes after my goals and does my best to overcome every obstacle that comes my way, whether it is little or big. I love school! As much as it drives me

crazy because I am so worried about succeeding and getting the best grade, I enjoy it, and it makes me happy. I love to learn, and I love to acquire the most knowledge I can each and every day throughout every opportunity I have. I am very eager to learn.

I have many goals, but as far as education goes, I will do anything and everything I can to finish my two-year degree and transfer to a four-year college/university (like UW Madison) to get my bachelor's degree in Psychology, then go to Law School. I will accomplish this dream of having a career as a lawyer, even if it takes me a long time because of money and balancing school and family. I will have my degree to show my grandchildren someday.

Even though money is a big obstacle, my eagerness and faith are much, much bigger by far. God will lead the way, and I will follow.

Odyssey has been an amazing blessing. I have learned so much (knowledge), and I have learned a lot about myself and others. I feel an immense feeling of happiness inside to finally be back in school; to have books to read, homework, and even quizzes that scare me and make me nervous. I am thankful and happy. Every Wednesday when class is over I cannot wait until it is time for class again. This is the place I want to be; this is the place where I belong. I still have a lot to learn, and my journey has only begun! I can't thank you enough for this wonderful opportunity you brought not only to my life but to the lives of my children and family.



Michael Martin

The ability to continue this journey will be a blessing. I have new, bigger goals for my life. I find myself reading a lot more. I think that this class has made me grow up in many ways. My life is structured now with work, school, and taking better care of myself. I often relate my everyday life to what we learn in class, like hearing the term "superlatives" used on "Late Night with Jimmy Fallon." Sometimes I feel like Socrates when I challenge people's intelligence. This class has awakened me. I'm not ready to go back to sleep—ever!



Amber McCarley

I should continue with the Odyssey Project second semester because I want to continue to learn new things for the next five

months. Being in the Odyssey Project for the past four months, I have learned and experienced so many things. Going on the field trips introduced me to new things I would have probably never seen or done. The project has opened up tons of new interests and opportunities. Moving forward in this Odyssey Project, I want to become more open and be able to feel like I am more a part of the project, not just a face.



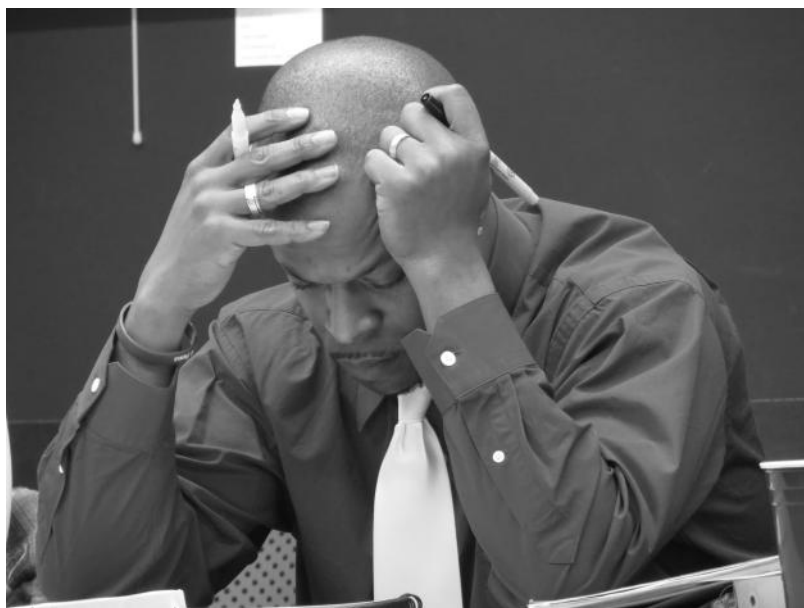
Derick McCray

First off, even though I've been the class clown, this class has given me more than I expected. I've not only gained more intellectual terms but have met and enjoyed all this class has offered me. I truly can't wait till next semester. My goals are to pay back my student loans and continue my studies.



Starr Miles

I'm very happy to be in the Odyssey Program pursuing my interests in health care, with an artistic soul. I have met many kind and intelligent people. I have had my eyes opened to art, music,



literature, museums, tours, guest speakers, actors, and authors. This has made me want, thirst, and hunger for more knowledge to see more art and learn more things about history, even my own history that I never knew.

I appreciate all the sponsors of this program, and I thank each and every one of them for their support. Each classmate is an important piece. Each instructor, counselor, tutor, and academic staff that is here every Wednesday night to help, listen, and give all of us their time is all part of this wonderful mosaic called the Odyssey. I will attain my degree. I have turned around, and I wish to continue on my journey. I can now see the light from my cave of the allegory.



Toshiana Northington

I feel like yes, I should go for the next semester because I wasn't using good time management when it comes to getting my readings done, finishing my work in a timely matter, and also spending real time on it. I was rushing. I thought I realized it before, but I really notice now that I need to take this class seriously . . . This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance, and I will never get that second chance again. I want to put my 100% effort into this program. I promise to take this program more seriously . . . and from here on out to give my all. I have a lot on my plate, but I will now treat this like a main priority, like I do Madison College classes and taking care of my home.



Janet Shelton

Writing my first essay for entry into the Odyssey program was related to me gaining knowledge and enhancing my writing as I moved forward in my academic career. Since starting the program, I have come across

literature and philosophy that I never have before. This semester has also taught me to be more interdependent, for example asking Emily for help or expressing my concerns as well as using the tutors. I believe I have not only grown as a student but as a person and mother. For me a dictionary is like my third eye and stays in my bag. I believe that by second semester's end, I will be even more educated with a lot to share and carry on my journey.



Jeannine Shoemaker

The first semester was hard for me. I had a lot of personal things going on in my life. Even with all that's gone on in my life, I have truly enjoyed what I've learned so much. My goal is to finish up all my work

over break so that I can be ready for next semester.



Alisha Taylor

I feel I should be in the program another semester for several reasons. First, I wouldn't feel good about myself if I didn't complete something as important as this.

Secondly, I have learned so much and feel like I have to use this outlet as an opportunity to keep



pushing for success of knowledge. I'm getting the feeling of a sense of family that was written about by so many alumni in the Oracles. I pay attention to things and conversations that I wouldn't have before. I always thought that I hated reading, but I'm now discovering just how much I actually like it. I hope to grow to love it.



Shiquille Ward

I feel I should continue with the Odyssey Program because not only am I growing as a learner but I'm also growing as a person. When you come to class and everyone is ready and willing to participate, it makes for an electric environment. Listening to everyone's story and hearing everyone have a voice not only makes us feel good, but it also gives us confidence. Over the course, we've talked about famous pieces and writers. I'm learning more and more about literature each and every session, from literary

terms like *alliteration* to famous works such as Blake's *Songs of Innocence* and Plato's *Trial and Death of Socrates*. These are things that open your eyes to today's world and see how ahead of their time these writers actually were. I continue to be grateful for this opportunity and will not let go until I wake up from my dream to live in that dream.



Latrice White

I think I can better myself. I was cheated by someone who took my time away. I missed about two weeks that seemed more like two months. This class really opens your mind to think outside the box. Before this class, I would have never thought about any of this like poems, music in different ways, grammar, time management, etc. I think I need an extra shot at this class to feel whole. It's exciting to learn about so much. I know I can do better or die trying next semester.





