

# ODYSSEY ORACLE

## THE ODYSSEY CONTINUES



*"Now that I have a taste of what Odyssey is all about, I hope to encounter a feast of knowledge after graduation!"*



*"This class has completely taken me out of my comfort zone . . . and reopened my mind."*



*"I've learned more than I ever could imagine."*

Emily Auerbach, Project Director; Oracle Editor  
Kevin Mullen, Assistant Director; Oracle Editor  
Emily Azad, Odyssey Coordinator  
Beth McMahon, Oracle Designer

emily.auerbach@wisc.edu  
kevin.mullen@wisc.edu  
emily.azad@wisc.edu

608-262-3733 or 608-712-6321  
608-572-6730  
608-262-3885

[www.odyssey.wisc.edu](http://www.odyssey.wisc.edu)





*"I want to learn more, I want to listen more, I want to grow more."*



*"Odyssey has challenged me in so many different ways, taught me to try something different with a new set of people on the same journey. We have so much more to explore together, my new family and me."*



*"Odyssey is my home away from home."*



### Derrick Allen

I have come a long way this semester learning new words and writing techniques along with usage. What an amazing class! Today I was in a short play. On Monday and

Tuesday tutoring, I get homework done and meet interesting people. We also learned about music from Emily's dad. I'm so excited about the second semester to see how much I can learn. I have come a long way in my writing, learning how to be creative with my story. I loved that we learned about Frederick Douglass, The Declaration of Independence, David Walker's appeal, and William Blake, but Socrates was my favorite of all. Those deep truths I can see in my life. Second semester will be even more exciting because we know each other's story.



### Ruthie Allen

I'm becoming a reader—not saying I love to read now, but I find myself doing it more than watching TV. Ruthie is also learning to embrace the techniques of perseverance, determina-

tion, and not putting off till tomorrow what I can get done in a day. I have not had a genuine love and concern for anyone outside my family in a while, and I find myself concerned about each and every one of my classmates. To separate us now would truly be detrimental because we all in a sense need one another to complete this wonderful journey.

*"I find myself concerned about each and every one of my classmates."*



### **Charnice Anderson**

In such a small time I have taken in so much information that it keeps me up at night, wanting to do additional research on topics we discuss. I have not contributed

much, but I plan on changing that. Although 2017 has been one of the roughest years of my life, Odyssey has become my escape. Even though we are learning, it feels good to take a break from the “real world.” I consider myself a hard worker, although I often procrastinate. I sometimes find myself trying to make excuses, but I think about my ultimate goal and keep pushing. I would like to be a part of next year’s class to finish what I started. Although it will be bitter-sweet, I am looking forward to seeing what next semester has to offer. I’ve built a lot of new relationships and learned more than I ever could imagine.



### **Tori Armour**

When I first applied for Odyssey, I was lost. I was so caught up in my role of mother and wife. I wasn’t sure if I would do well, but I promised myself I would try. Since the first class, I knew we were bound for



greatness. I have received so much from this class. Through our writing assignments I have learned how to focus on myself. I have been able to tap into my inner poet/writer. I must say I missed her more than I knew. Odyssey is my safe place. I can be myself completely here and feel I bring my own perspective to the class, along with my wonderfully colorful vocabulary. I would like to continue next semester to see more of our potential unlocked. I’m humbled to be a part of this group, and I don’t want this to end.



*“Since the first class, I knew we were bound for greatness.”*





### Keziah Bester

I would like to be in Odyssey second semester because it's my home away from home. After having a baby within the first couple weeks of class and coming back to class weeks after that, at times I had to pull myself together and force myself to get out the house. Once I got to class, I was always glad I came. I remember staying up almost 48 hours straight because Julian was sick, but even though I was tired I was still looking forward to going to class. So I got myself together and went. Everybody is so friendly and willing to help. I'm grateful to have so many people who believe in me and push me to succeed. The only thing I regret this semester is not being able to make it to every class. It was really hard catching up on my work, and sometimes I was out of it in class just from being tired. Now that I'm in more of a motherhood rhythm, I have learned to balance my time accordingly to complete my work. I can feel and see the love that is put into this program, and I'm so happy to be a part of it. No matter if I have to bring Julian to class once or twice or walk around a bit so I don't fall asleep from being up late nights, I will find a way to be in class and never give up because my support system is huge and keeps me going.



### Sch'Royce Brown

Although I haven't completed all the homework, this program is for second chances. As I continue on, I would like to pay attention more and

use tutoring a little more than I do now. I have gotten a lot of motivation from this program. It has given me strength to even take a second chance at things outside of this classroom, like getting prepared for my cosmetology state board and other endeavors that are on my list. With that being said, I would like to be a part of second semester because I still have hope. I know I can finish off strong and use this to open other doors for me in the future. I can show my son that giving up is not an

option, and I actually like being around everyone in class.



*"I can show my son that giving up is not an option."*



### **Angela Carpino**

I feel I should be able to continue with the program because it is helping me with my punctuation, spelling, paragraph structure, and study skills. It is opening my eyes to things I didn't pay very close attention to, such as art

and poetry. I have also learned a lot more about slavery that I did not learn before in school or at home. The speaker that came in and spoke to us about it [Professor Christy Clark-Pujara] really opened my eyes to how the past greatly affects the present struggles minorities face today. I feel this class is a blessing for me, and I truly feel I will be one of the alumni that choose to come back in later years and share success stories. I definitely plan on taking the class offered next year by Kevin. I am destined to be much more. I know for a fact that continuing with this class was and will be the best decision of my life. I am very thankful for this opportunity and will not let it go to waste. Thank you!



### **TaTiana Clacks**

Hey, my Odyssey family. I am eager to see the progress and the result of my adventure in the Odyssey second semester. I am currently still pushing to be beyond the best at achieving my six credits. I promised this

to myself and my family. I truly need this opportunity to challenge myself through my adversities that will and have occurred in the midst of my first semester. I have great ideas and also truly need this family dynamic for my livelihood. I am beyond happy to be a part of such a great blessing. My struggle with my strength will help me prevail on any level with my classmates' and Emily's encouragement with my ambition to walk across the University of Wisconsin stage. It will set the tone for my beginning to my legacy for "Beauty on Business" to prevail at any cost—rain, sleet,



snow, good times or bad times, I will see my destiny be fulfilled. This stepping stone can open the doors to my opportunity to be the woman I know God has destined me to be. I truly thank everyone for the experience as we set a new "odyssey" to NOT GIVE UP and to have faith. I will push even on sick days and snow days to stand together. I pray all my class- family-mates a happy holidays and to enjoy every moment, as nothing is promised. Stay beautifully blessed. Acknowledging my chance to be beyond the best, I will continue to set my mark on life with my "pink glitter painting the world."




**James Davis**

I believe the Odyssey Program will be a perfect fit for me, to help empower myself and to show my kids that it's never too late to change and to

never give up. Reading Oracles gives me a feeling of fellowship and a sense of belonging to a new family. One thing that struck me from the alumni was: "Don't you give up, no matter what."



eyes to different things. I've cried after reading other people's stories in the Odyssey Oracle. I hope to make some friends in class by the time we all graduate. My writing skills have improved so much, and I need more—so much more when it comes to punctuation, spelling, and grammar. I need to come to tutoring


**Tyjeana Galloway**

I'm Jeana, and I'm 37 years old. I have two daughters and one granddaughter. I have learned so much about American History and Civil Rights since I've attended the class. Every time I leave class, I

always call my daughter and share with her things I've learned. I realize how much I enjoy learning, and I enjoy reading out loud during class. The knowledge I'm taking in has really opened up my

more, and I think I will try to participate in class and share my ideas. I've shared a lot of personal information with everyone here about my life and my family. I wish the best to everyone in class, and I hope they are also getting the most out of class. I plan on keeping up with my perfect attendance. My daughter Carmella hasn't missed any classes in Odyssey Junior either. We're both

very proud and happy that we are in the UW family now. I know that I may be able to open some other people's hearts when I share what we're learning in class. I would like to get as much as I can from the Odyssey Program so Emily and Kevin know they made the right decision by inviting me to be a part of the 2017-18 class. This experience has already been life changing for me, and I can't wait to see how much further we all can grow together.



*"My daughter and I are . . . both very proud we are in the UW family now."*



applied for the program but only a few of us got in. We have to value the opportunity given. I ask that you allow me to continue in the Odyssey Program second semester. I am getting ready to participate more in class and to give all I've got to get through the program the best I can. I am working on my spelling and grammar. I have found a great group of friends in Odyssey and would love to continue learning from them. Thank you very much, Odyssey.

*"Coming to class brightens up my day because a lot of my classmates are hilarious."*



**Guadalupe "Lupita" Hernandez Nuñez**

As I have completed a full semester in the Odyssey Project, I can say that it has showed me a lot of stuff so far. It has opened new paths in my life. I have been more interested in reading and

learning. Odyssey has made me feel secure and has made me realize how important it is for each individual to learn and teach, just like "The Allegory of the Cave" story. I know that so far I'm quiet during class, but it's not that I don't want to participate. I just know that if I listen to what other people have to say, I will learn much more. Since I started Odyssey, I have noticed that I have become a lot more confident and determined in what I want in life. I love to hear the stories of people that were in the program before and became great inspirations to me. I am looking forward to becoming an inspiration to others one day. Odyssey has shown me that even if I feel struggles, I can always manage to overcome them. I'm always doing my best to come to class on time and do my homework. Every time I feel like I can't do it anymore, I remember Emily and the one question she asked me at the interview: "If you get chosen, how do I know you will come to class even during hard times?" I always remember that a lot of people



**Carla Herrejon Tinajero**

I have learned new words, and it has helped me understand vocabulary in books more than I could understand in the past. I have contributed by writing of my personal experiences and thoughts. That way my classmates

can learn from a different background than the one they came from. Most of the things we have been learning about have been very interesting. Coming to class brightens up my day because a lot of my classmates are hilarious, and I always have a good time. I also enjoy learning about everyone else in class. I would like to be a part of second semester to keep my knowledge growing and to keep getting to know everyone in class.





**Arioun Jones**

I should continue to be in this class because I am a very hard worker and get my homework done on time. I'm always on time for class and sometimes come a little early. I plan on continuing

my education to become a forensic psychologist when I graduate from Odyssey. This program would be good for me to continue being in because it would give me the support I need in the future with applying for a real college and finding the right resources that I need to help me. What I have gotten out of this class so far is learning how to be more open with my classmates and my teacher. I learned how to write properly a five-paragraph paper and the way it is supposed to be presented. How I contribute to this class is participating when it comes to sharing what we wrote in the Oracles and reading out loud to my classmates.



*"Odyssey is a fun learning experience."*

**Alexis Law**

Odyssey is a fun learning experience. I love coming to class and being around my classmates and wonderful teachers. I had got set back two assignments, but you guys still did everything to

make sure I got them done. I'm grateful to have an extra support team. I have gotten good vocabulary and am getting better on my writing. I contributed to the class by showing up, paying attention, and sharing my ideas. I want to say thank you for this opportunity and would be glad to attend next semester. I really look forward to coming to class. I like how you guys offer extra help to make sure we succeed. You guys really believe in us. Success is a big key in this program, and you guys strive for us to do that. Odyssey is the perfect name for this program because it was a new journey that I want to continue to go on. Everything I learn so far I can use in my daily life.

**Adrian Molitor**

I need the support, in spite of my sometimes disruptive behavior. This semester for me is 14 credits, and Odyssey is my only creative outlet. I feel as though college has really pounded a lot of the

good out of me. The group is very supportive and gives me an overall feeling of peace and humor. I have learned and relearned more about myself in the past semester in Odyssey than I have in over two and a half semesters at Madison College. The instructors here are really helpful and informative. I hope to become a better listener in class, but I do get worked up sometimes. Another thing is that my 17-year-old son likes to join me at tutoring, and that's nice. I hope to continue to learn and grow as a student. Thank you!

*"The group is very supportive and gives me an overall feeling of peace and humor."*

**Bruce Moore**

Thanks to the Odyssey Project this semester, I am learning that I can write stories that can make people feel, look, think, and give emotional responses. By just writing about simple things in

my life—my child, my mom, and myself—I'm able to grow as a person and as a writer. Some people tell me they really like the content of my stories; some tell me they like the details. It's like I make pictures and bring them to life. Others give me compliments on my writing style and how it ebbs and flows full of many emotions. This class has enabled and empowered me thus far, and I want more—more of the possibilities and opportunities that this program has made available to me. I love this class. Besides my child, this has

been the high point of my fall, and I look forward to being in each class. I really want to be in the next class. I want to learn more, I want to listen more, I want to grow more. I really, really want to get good grades in this program and graduate. I want to learn to write better. I want to write plays

about my life as a single dad, mental health nurse, and black man, and to write stories about my daughter Sidney. I want to be an RN [registered nurse] and create positive programming for black men. I already have a template I created to work from. I need this program to assist me with my foundation for my future and the future of my child. All of these are the reasons why you should let me continue on in the next semester.





### **Selena Muñoz**

I feel I should continue into the second semester of our program because I know I still have the same potential to go for a second plate of knowledge. Odyssey itself has given me and the rest of my

classmates the courage to bring out the best in us and in each other. Every Wednesday night my drive from Lake Mills to South Park St. in Madison is worth every mile. I have never been part of a class that makes me crave such valuable knowledge, and not just random knowledge. Contributing my time and papers is an opportunity to show my professors who I am and to give my best in what I have to offer. Now that I have a taste of what Odyssey is all about, I hope to encounter a feast of knowledge after graduation!

### **Sayury Peralta Vivanco**

I am happy, humorous, friendly, kind, and helpful when it is needed, and I always put others first before me. I love to cook and have time with family and friends, and I care a lot about what I do at work. I want to continue in the class because I want to be able to learn more English,



culture, writers, poems, and history and especially enrich my vocabulary more. I'm a person who likes to interact with everyone and make friends. I care for people and always try to assist them in anything they need if they ask.

So far in this class, I have learned a lot. I learned about slavery in the USA, who is who, and a little bit of history. This class is a big challenge for me because I'm very afraid to write or express myself. I take and eat every new word I hear from my classmates and every vocabulary word from class. This class is helping me to understand the English language better and to write better. It also gives me the incentive to pursue my education and finish. The teachers and tutors are great and make me like being back at school. So far this class has helped me also in my job to use new words that I learned here, to have conversations, understand slang, etc. Reading for me is a challenge. If I continue in school for the second semester, I will lose my biggest fear: writing well in English. I'm learning how to write an essay, but I need to learn more. I hope when I leave the class, I can say that I'm not afraid to write. I will continue to eat every word any one of you says and enrich my vocabulary more and more.







### **Maya Rasheed-Bracey**

Joining Odyssey has been one of my greatest accomplishments in my adult life so far. I'm in the midst of still learning

about myself and trying to be the best me I can be. This class has completely taken me out of my comfort zone, and I truly love the feeling. I wish I could spend the rest of my college experience right here in this same class with the same teachers and

classmates. Even though I may not talk much in class, I feel more comfortable with every passing class, and I'm never made to feel like I've said something dumb. My classmates don't laugh at the nervousness in my voice. It's a judge free zone. This class has re-opened my mind and makes me think outside of the box. I love challenging my writing and reading skills. I look



forward to coming every week; this is my escape from everything. I've come this far in the program and only see myself getting better—improving my writing and reading skills, networking with people from all types of backgrounds, becoming more than just classmates and more like family/longtime friends/a support group, etc. This is truly life changing. Any time my family or friends ask me about school, I am always so proud, so happy and genuine. I am always proud to tell my little nieces and nephews that I am doing this not only for myself but for them as well. Not everyone in my family graduates from high school, and I just want to show them it's never too late. You can be whoever you want.



### **Reggie Reed**

I'm driven to learn. I come in every week with my own opinions but am always ready to consider others. An example of this is when we were talking about factions. I came in thinking that any disagreeing

faction is purely malicious but left knowing that it's a matter of perspective. We all want to protect our rights. I participate in conversations and share unique ideas.


**Nathaniel Robinson**

I have a vision for myself in regards to my own success and at times it gets cloudy, hindering me from feeling as if I can achieve my

goals. I'm hoping being part of this class I'll be able to see more clearly as I truly believe it would give me guidance and possibly create a smoother path for me in where I want to go in life. Thank you to Emily and the Odyssey staff and students. I really want to graduate and continue my studies.



graduating, along with personal and educational growth, so I can soon help and encourage others the way Odyssey has done for me.


**Victor Rojas**

I am Victor Rojas-Mena and I would like to continue in the Odyssey Project

because I like to come to class, and I have found good people here—people who want to help, people like me who want a second chance in school, people who are shy but try to

participate, people who have problems even bigger than mine but keep coming. Those people are very inspirational for me. I would like to keep learning from our good teachers. They are the best. I like how they teach with music, art, and drama. I hope I can keep coming! Thank you for everything!


**Barbara Rodgers**

The first semester of Odyssey has been an amazing experience, although I may come across as a bit socially awkward and shy. My goal is to break down that wall I built over the years so I can embrace

the full experience Odyssey has to offer. I've had my fair share of ups and downs, but I wouldn't have made it this far without the unconditional support and encouragement of Odyssey and my classmates. I would like to continue second semester because I'm looking forward to





**Lisa Simmons**

I feel like I should still be in the class because I came to every study group just to prove that I really want to be here, and I turned my homework in on time. I learned so much more

about slavery, even though it makes me mad to talk about it. I really want to work on my vocabulary and my handwriting with pen because it's terrible. This semester for me was really hard. I had a lot going on. I felt like no one would understand, but Kevin did. He's helped me out this semester in so many ways. I couldn't thank him enough. I'm starting to feel more comfortable here than at the beginning of the semester.



**Hailey Sjuggerud**

I believe I have attained a grasp of fortitude in attending to the routine and actual attendance. When I come to Odyssey for class, I am trying to become more college bound with more

substance as a person so I can fulfill a dream of a degree. When I come to class, which is always with the exception of the death of my father, I try to block out everything else and focus my full attention to what I am put to task to learn. I take this very seriously. I enjoy coming to class and feel it has benefitted not only me but my children as well. My seven-year-old son Cole has been doing well all year as opposed to struggling the last two years of school, and I can't help but think Odyssey Junior has helped him. I have sincerely enjoyed reading classics I never thought I would read nor like. I also greatly appreciate learning Black History not taught in public school such as Frederick Douglass's autobiography. I liked it so much I passed it along to my mom. I myself would like to continue on doing something in the humanities. Odyssey has given me the valuable experience of meeting many different people.

*"My seven-year-old son has been doing well in school all year, and I can't help but think Odyssey Junior has helped him."*






**Ladaro Taylor**

"Rappers don't talk to people that do not understand them."—Craig Werner. This quote has really meant a lot to me. I cannot tell you the ways I found myself no longer

fitting in, but now I am standing out. . . . You are asking, "What do you believe?" I believe a lot. . . . I care about how my story is going to end. I thank Craig for that. I come to this class now because I enjoy being here. . . . I enjoy our group activities. I no longer look at Odyssey as a "have to." I come because I want to.


**Tandalaya Taylor**

I remember hoping to be a part of the program to get a head's up on writing and new adventures in learning with others similar to myself. Since being in the class, I have learned so

much about authors that I normally wouldn't read about on my own. The language that's presented in these books needs to be broken down to be understood. With just the idea of being able to break words down, you will have a better understanding of how to read something. I'm interested to continue learning new words and great literature. With some of the books we read, I feel empowered. I feel like the learning I get from this class helps me clear my mind, exercise my brain, get in tune with writing, and express how I feel. I feel like I bring great energy to the class and help people express themselves by me being naturally myself. I feel like I haven't done all the learning I can do. I want to

be able to be flawless at writing—not as many mistakes but being able to express more and knowing how to use words that help me relieve my pain. The writing is smooth and soothing. I love acting with the plays we do. There is so much more I have to learn and express. If only I could finish another semester to polish all my skills, I would feel honored and privileged.



*"With some of the books, I feel empowered."*



*"All my classmates are wonderful!"*



**Bao Thao**

Odyssey has helped me find that writer I used to be. This class has truly been a blessing. All my classmates are wonderful! I look forward to class every week. This class has

given me an eye opener to what I want to do for a living, and the opportunities and options are endless. I have even considered now writing non-fiction books about life and reality to help youth want to learn and to show them how important it is to focus when they are still young with nothing to worry about but getting their homework done. I have showed up to class on time and attended every Wednesday class we've had. I work so hard on turning in all my homework on time and only was late on the first one, but I still managed to get that one in the very next week. I work hard not just on homework but also have answered all of Coach's requests. I do it not because we have to but because I know it'll do me great wonders. I truly look

forward to second semester and can't wait to see what it will unfold for me. I love that the Odyssey Program has helped me start this Odyssey journey I can call my own and write about.



**Ameshia Turner**

Before I came into the program, I didn't have a sense of belonging or having many friends, but that part of life has made a 360 degree turn for me. I have gained the idea

that knowledge is power and the key.

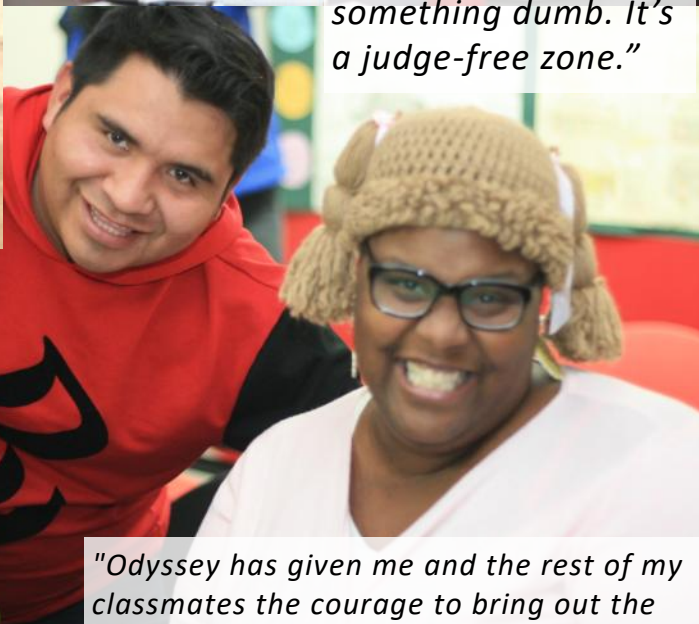
Odyssey has challenged me in so many different ways, taught me to try something different with a new set of people on the same journey. I have agoraphobia (fear of crowds), but I would like to do stand-up comedy in class next semester and make my classmates laugh. My journey is not over yet. We have so much more to explore together, my new family and me.



*"I can feel and see the love that is put into this program, and I'm so happy to be part of it."*



*"I'm never made to feel like I've said something dumb. It's a judge-free zone."*



*"Odyssey has given me and the rest of my classmates the courage to bring out the best in us and in each other."*



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