

A learning tool for students of the UW-Madison Odyssey Project

# Odyssey ORACLE

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## Catchy Openings

*Stay tuned to the Oracle for completed editorials. Meanwhile,  
here are a few catchy openings.*

**From Ronnie Jones**

**(narrative):**

It's Monday morning.  
Kortni arises from her  
sleepless night, only to begin a  
restless day. She wakes up to  
no breakfast, no pushy mother  
fussing at her to get out the  
door, and emptiness. Hunger

pains and thoughts on how she  
hasn't seen her mother in over  
a week race through her mind  
as she forces her way out the  
door to school.

As fast as she walks, she's  
still over thirty minutes late. A  
teacher greets her on her way  
through the door, letting her  
know she shouldn't be late,  
and asking her why she is late  
anyway.

**BOOM!** She snaps.

Instantly, the teacher escorts  
her to the principal, who hands  
her the suspension papers to  
take home to "mom." He then  
swiftly escorts her out the  
door, back to the never-ending  
emptiness she just left.

Kortni doesn't stand alone.  
The Band-Aid approach is  
used more often than not when  
it comes to our youth . . .





**From Justin Wilson  
(personal account):**

I remember how difficult school was for me during my young teens. Frequently I would be dressed in secondhand clothes and subjected to endless verbal disparaging by my peers. I remember walking down the halls of my school being talked about and laughed at because my clothes came from K-mart or some such cheap store. . . . In all the media you see today, images are being crafted by the wealthy and foisted upon those with less...

**From Mandisa Hayes  
(question; irony):**

How many people do you know panic at the thought of making too much money? I know I do, and I know several other working families who have the same fear. Why, you ask? The answer is simple.



Just recently my mother had a cataract surgery which will cost \$12,000 on each eye! I was really shocked when I saw the bill... This is awful because she is not even covered by insurance. Without insurance, she's most likely to spend so many years of her life in debt.

Why are medical bills so high?...

**From Sheriah Quartey  
(personal account leading to thesis):**

When my mother, a drug addict, had several bouts with suicide attempts, she was turned away from programs due to not having proper insurance. My mother has been addicted to drugs for 10 years and has never been successfully able to get proper treatment to recover. There is a dire need for affordable rehabilitation facilities and also programs that accept Medical Assistance...

**From Nosihle Lukhele  
(personal account leading to question):**





# Judging John Brown

John Brown felt no guilt for his actions; in fact, he was proud. He felt the people were hypocrites because had he done it for the rich, he would have been commended.

**(Valerie Williams)**



“white”), it would have been deemed an act worthy of reward and he would have been pardoned. **(Elizabeth Red Cloud)**



but right. Now if you can justify executing me for doing what’s right, which was freeing God’s children



whose rights are disregarded by the wicked, cruel, and unjust laws, then so I shall die. Furthermore, I feel no guilt in my actions, and I’m satisfied with the treatment I’ve received in my trial.

**(paraphrase of John Brown by Jeffery McCarroll)**

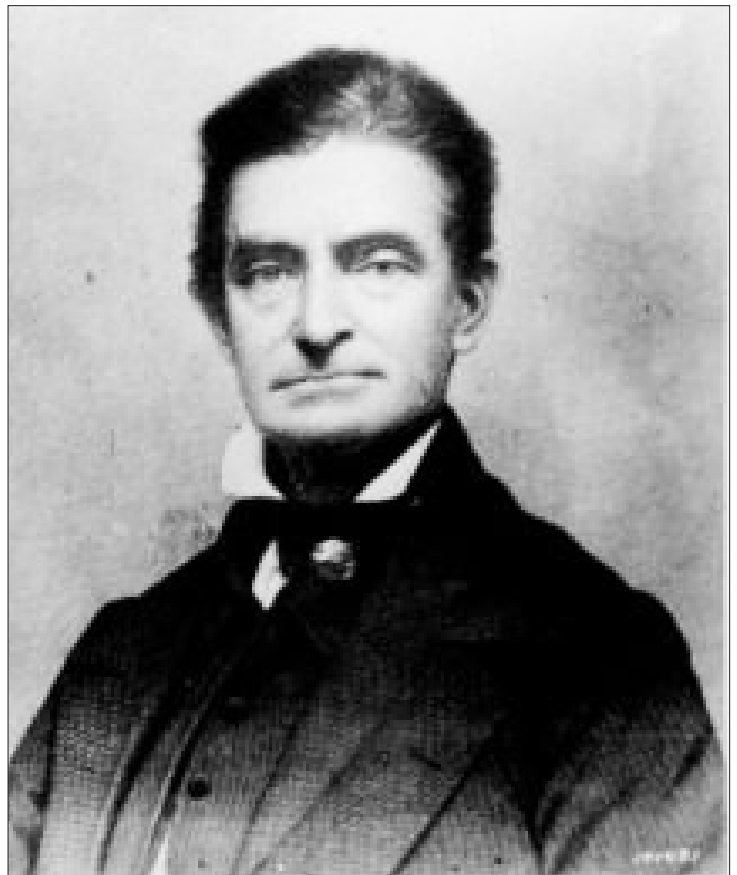
When I read how one of Brown’s supporters tried to help him escape, I could only think of Socrates.



From Brown’s last statement, it is obvious that he has a higher calling than man’s laws. Brown must have felt the same way Socrates did about how escaping would only prove your captors right and your morals wrong. . . . He must have felt that to be a martyr like Jesus would be the only way to identify with the pain of those he was trying to free. **(Tom Gardner)**

I agree that if he had done what he did for the “rich” (I put “rich” in quotes because I think it a nice way of saying

I, John Brown, planned to free all slaves. However, I did not plan murder, treason, or destruction of property nor to provoke all slaves to rebelling. If my actions were on behalf of the rich slave owners, I would be considered a hero and not a criminal. The court respects, I suppose, the importance of God’s laws. God’s laws teach me that anything done to me I should do in return. I believe my actions were on behalf of the oppressed children of God, so I did not wrong,



# Oracle Call and Response



## Overall Oracle

This class teaches us how to “unwrap our gifts,” expressing our feelings through words! I could really relate to Candy’s reflection on her childhood. Isn’t it wonderful when we as parents can break the cycle and do better than our parents did for us? Justin’s reflection touched my heart. It’s amazing what strengths we find when we face things and stop running from them. Charrod’s reflection on legal issues hit home with me. Never let your past define who you are or determine your future! (Elizabeth Red Cloud)

I read the Oracle in great anticipation, excitement, and arousal as I held onto each image my mind envisioned! It’s impossible for me to comment on just one article. I feel so intertwined in each and everyone’s life story and heart’s matters. I am on an Odyssey high, screaming in delight as the roller coaster travels suddenly upward,

then quickly downward. Each written line is as important and interesting as another.

When I read Naomi’s article on life in her country, I felt like I was right there with her running past brick houses with bare feet down pathways of adobe. . . . Nosihle, so soft spoken and sweet natured, oh, how you roared like a lion in great royalty . . . and painted such clear descriptions of your world in Swaziland.

Ivonne melted my heart with the great history she shared about Mae Jemison, the first woman of color to go into space. I was right there “struck by the strength, beauty, and preeminence of the earth and stars.” Elizabeth, you are a beautiful, strong warrior woman who takes control of the memories that will not hold you captive anymore. Sheriah, power lies in the midst of your whispered secrets; life rages in the fire of your touch. Tom, I admire your strength and courage. May your pain turn into triumph! Candy, love radiates from deep

within you. René, I agree that life is so much sweeter when lived like it’s the last moment and loved like it’s the final touch. Charrod, don’t hold on to that shame but just keep reaching higher and higher. Justin, may we continue to inspire you to stand and fight and not run anymore!

Rockameem, your review of Youssou N’Dour was so electrically inspiring that I journeyed right there with you to the drum beat and the dance steps of the night’s magic! Sweet Valerie, I agree that “music is a universal language understood by all.” Sheriah, the way you described the evening [at the Madison Symphony] left me singing and dancing with you, your sister, and the entire combined orchestra and choirs celebrating together.

Jonah and Drake, you will grow to be strong, intelligent, courageous black men of history.

I am privileged to read, learn, and grow as my mind expands from so many different viewpoints. Such talented, gifted, and varied minds are all merged together with respect for the other’s understanding. It is an Odyssey of great adventure to bask in the wonder of such a web of wisdom.

(Sherri Bester)

## Waterboarding

I was moved by Tom Gardner’s contribution to the January 30 Oracle (“Waterboarding”). I was struck by the brutality, humiliation, and degradation Tom endured at the

hands of those “officers.”

I read the article to my fiancé and my children because I wanted, no I needed them to hear it and to understand its importance. . . .

After reading Tom’s words, I felt tremendous and almost unbearable sadness. I also felt admiration and respect for Tom because I cannot, nor would I want to, imagine the fear that he was feeling. To think that those may have been the last moments of your life, and no one would ever know what happened to you.

I think Tom has an abundance of courage to have endured such a barbaric act, and I want to say thank you for letting us see that side of Tom.

(Valerie Williams)

### ***Second Chances***

I like René’s piece about second chances. I agree every day is a new day, another chance to reinvent yourself and live better.

(Justin Wilson)

### ***Unhealthy Rules***

First of all the picture with Elizabeth’s piece [needle entering a skull] just did something to me. Man, talk about a harsh reality! I’m so happy for us to have her not as Angel but as Elizabeth. I would just thank her for being who she has become, Elizabeth, and for all that she can and will be. Thank you, Elizabeth, for helping me be me!

(Rockameem)

### ***My Name is Jonah***

I really was impressed at your wanting to build skyscrapers. I don’t know any skyscraper builders, but I always wondered how it would feel to walk by a building, look at it, and say, ‘Wow, I built that!’ I imagine you will be saying that one day. That is such a wonderful goal to have. I’m proud of you already.

I know your Mom, Ozanne, and I like her a lot. . . . That’s a nice picture of you, too! You are one handsome young man; you have a very nice smile. Stay focused on your goals, and I hope to live to see one of the skyscrapers you built.

(René Robinson)

### ***Swaziland***

I am so happy Nosihle is in a country where she can have freedom of speech and get the education she wants. I am so proud of her that she is in Wisconsin and wasn’t chosen to be the wife of the King. Otherwise, he would not have let her come to the U.S.A., and she wouldn’t be in Odyssey teaching us about the geography and customs of Swaziland. I want one day to write about her getting her Ph.D.

(Naomi Kharrazihassani)

### ***Things You Feel***

Justin, I’m glad that the Odyssey class has helped you see that although things may be

difficult to face at times, we do get through it. As René says, we all get a “Second Chance.” I’ve always been a runaway from group homes and foster homes. As I got older, I kept moving from apartment to apartment. I guess for me it’s been difficult to let people in my life because I don’t trust well. That’s why I move around a lot. So I’m glad to hear that you’re going to stay put.

(Candy Gonzalez)

### ***El Salvador***

I read Naomi’s entry twice. I have seen very little of the world, so it was interesting reading her description of her homeland of El Salvador. Her choice of words describing the food she misses, what the houses are made of, and family traditions made El Salvador sound like a place I would want to visit.

(Jack Crawford)

### ***Personal Reflections***

After reading Charrod’s essay about his first misdemeanor crime and conviction, my heart goes out to him. I applaud Charrod for his honesty and for sharing this experience with us. . . . I wish you well on your journey through your trials and tribulations.

(Albert Watson)

[Note: Charrod Miller’s address for the next 90 days is c/o Dane County Jail, 131 W. Doty St., Madison WI 53703. See Emily for stamps.]





# Listening to Lincoln

*“A house divided against itself can not stand.”*

This is a reference to the New Testament. I believe Lincoln was referring to the government as a house.

... and also as a moral duty.  
(Ivonne Ramos)



*“A new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”*

No matter what you look like, where you're from, or how much property you own or don't own, every man, woman, and child is the same in the eyes of God (or at least that's the way it should be).

(Valerie Williams)



*“The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did*



*here.”*

Lincoln was concerned about the loss of life at Gettysburg, not how it would be viewed in history. It was the bloodiest battle in the history of America: 50,000 casualties and 8,000 deaths. His devotion was to the people in America, all the people in America.

(Rockameem)

*“Both [North and South] read the same Bible, and pray to the same God. . . . let us judge not that we be not judged.”*

Lincoln cautioned the North for judging the South and feeling above or better than them. Lincoln quoted a Bible verse, judge not as to not be judged. We all come short of the Glory of God; therefore, we have no room to think we are better than another.

(RJ Knight)



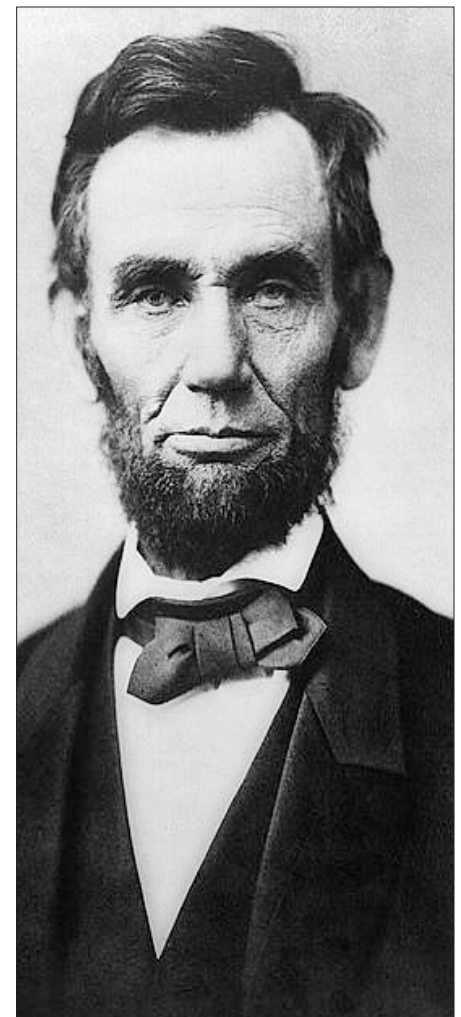
*“With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God give us to see the right, let us*



*strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just, and a lasting peace, among ourselves, and with all nations.”*

With hatred for no one, generosity to everyone, and commitment to the importance of doing what's right, we must heal the nation's injuries, take care of those who fought the battles, and work toward peace within our own country as well as with other countries.

(Naomi Kharrazihassani)



# What's in a Name?



## **Ozanne Janel Kincaid Anderson**

My maiden initials (O.J.K.) are the same as my dad's: Olden Jefferson Kincaid. My mother said that she was looking for an "O" name and saw on television a French character named Dr. Ozanne. She liked it so much that it became my first name. It is pronounced Ozänne.

I later learned that my great grandfather had roots in France and settled in Louisiana, which gives me French-Creole ancestry.

## **Kevin George Schoen**

I am the eleventh and last child born to my mother and father. My mother told me that my middle name, "George," was given to me in honor of Saint George. She explained that Saint George was special because he "slayed the dragon." I never checked out this Saint George guy. My parents were Catholic, so he could be a character in the



history of the Catholic Church or a mythological hero of some sort.

I don't recall an explanation of their choosing my first name, "Kevin." They may have been out of names. . . . I like my name.

## **Jack Crawford III**

My name is Jack Crawford III;



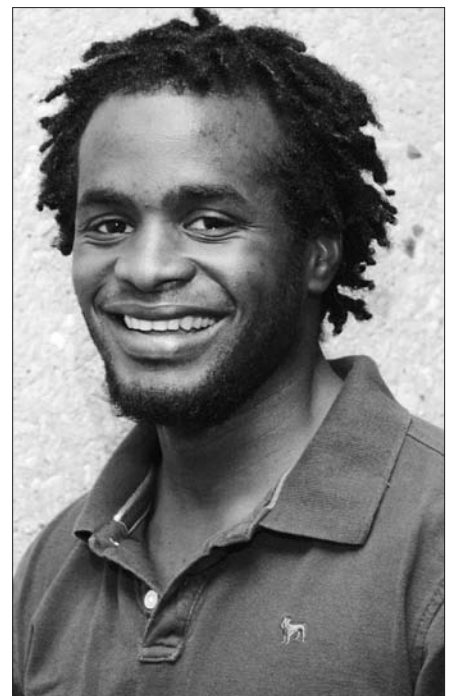
I have no middle initial. Although I have no recollection of my father, I was told I was named after him. His father was also named Jack.

The significance or importance my name holds for myself personally has to do with pride. It also has to do with honor and remembering those family members who lived before myself and shared my same name.

## **Haroun Omar**

I am named after the prophet Moses' younger brother Aaron. He was also a prophet. He was blessed with eloquence of speech, defended the truth, and helped Moses to liberate the Jews that the pharaohs and Egyptian chiefs wrongfully enslaved.

My name is of great significance to me because God loved Aaron. He was Moses' brother, and he stood for truth and reason and fought injustice.



# WHY VOTE?

## Excerpts from an Essay Contest

### “Why Vote? An Essay for the Uninformed”

by John Shields

... When

I used to think of civil rights, I thought of the plight of blacks and their struggles to achieve equality. For



example, blacks had to sit at the back of the bus, could not eat meals at the lunch counter but had to stand in the back parking lot, and could not drink water out of the same fountain as whites. Now I realize that all of this mistreatment stemmed from being unable to vote.

In areas where segregation was law, such as Mississippi, the majority of residents were black, yet the voters were white. Although blacks had technically won the right to vote after the Civil War, they were unable to exercise this right due to stumbling blocks placed in their way by white society. Black would-be voters were subjected to poll taxes, literacy, and citizen tests that were not applied to whites. In many cases, voter registration hours were limited. Sometimes voter registration sites were open for only one hour a day in order to deter registration.

During the Civil Rights movement of the early 1960s,

black and white activists conducted voter registration drives in Mississippi. They provided transportation to registration sites, conducted literacy classes, and offered moral support in a time of fear. As a result of attempting to register, many blacks lost their jobs, homes were burned, and people were shot and thrown in the river. Their sacrifices ultimately resulted in the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Voting rights enabled blacks to elect officials who would work on their behalf and create opportunities for change. People today who don't vote may have forgotten their history or may never have known it. Not voting is a slap in the face to those before us who fought for the very right we now ignore. By voting we honor all those who suffered and died.

In the past forty years, voters have elected many black politicians into positions of power. Over time, black legislators have risen to prominence on a national level. This is evidenced in the power of Congress's Black Caucus. Black legislators with twenty or thirty years' seniority hold powerful committee chairmanships. They can help junior members better serve their districts. Your vote today can influence our nation's democratic process for years to come.

It is ironic that voter turnout is greatest in national elections

because voting on a local level has even more of an impact on one's quality of life. Local issues such as garbage collection, quality of public schools, police and fire protection affect us more directly than do issues decided on a national level. In addition, your vote is much more powerful in a local election because it is one vote out of a thousand or ten thousand, as opposed to national elections where your vote isn't even one out of a million.

Another reason to vote is that by not voting we continuously leave the power in the hands of those who do vote. They tend to be older, whiter, wealthier, and more conservative than those who don't vote. A growth in voting numbers means a growth in power. For example, politicians today are tapping into the pool of Hispanic voters as a resource. If everyone who is poor votes consistently, in a knowledgeable way, this would create a large block of new voters.

If we believe in the value of democracy, voting is the only way to maintain it. We don't usually see people move away from democratic countries to live under dictatorships. Our country, however, is full of people who came here to escape political oppression, religious persecution, or economic hardship in countries with different forms of government.

By not voting, who are we really hurting? Are we having revenge against the whole



political process? Over my lifetime, I've come to understand that revenge is like swallowing poison and hoping the other person dies. It's pointless, and it only hurts you. As it has been said before, knowledge is power. I have learned that there are many good reasons to vote. It all boils down to this: if you don't use your vote, you don't have a vote.

***For a detailed account of the voter registration drive in Mississippi, see Chapter VIII ("1961-1964, The Mississippi Delta: A Tremor in the Middle of the Iceberg") in Pete Seeger and Bob Reiser, Everybody Says Freedom (N.Y.: Norton, 1989).***

### **"Bloody Sunday" by Tom Gardner**

On  
Sunday,  
March  
7<sup>th</sup>, 1965,  
some 600  
civil rights  
marchers  
descended  
east upon  
the Edmund  
Pettus  
Bridge



towards Selma, to demonstrate their constitutional right to vote. This march was in response to a black man who had tried to vote but whose body was found days later.

Six blocks from the church where the protesters started their innocent march, local police, state troopers, and various riffraff attacked them. While the protesters were beaten with nightsticks and bats embedded with nails, teargassed, and

run over by horses, television cameras showed the world how determined whites were to keep blacks from voting.

Over 100 people were injured and over 17 required emergency hospital care. News footage showed how the marchers were surrounded by violent men who attacked defenseless men, women, and children while they were blinded by smoke bombs and choking on tear gas. . . .

And you don't want to vote. What about all the sacrifices made so that you could exercise your civic duty? Since the inception of this country laws were made to prevent the poor man from having a voice alongside the rich property owners. The poll tax is an infamous one, and then there's the one where my grandfather had to recite the Constitution in order to vote in 1920s Tennessee.

Today the pundits realize that if every black man exercised his right to vote they might take over the country. So they demand that they have served no prison time or have two forms of personal identification with a current picture in order to vote. What they forgot about were the women who stayed home and see in Obama a hope for their own sons.

Voters have turned out at 2-3 times the number than last election. Most of those voters are democratic, and most of them are black, young, and liberal. The revolution will not be televised because cameras are not allowed in the voting booth. You must be a part of this evolution of American history because this

chapter is turning and history is being made right now.

There cannot be a President Obama without your vote. There cannot be less money spent on jails and more on education unless you vote. There cannot be job training and free day care unless you vote. There cannot be an end to the military/industrial/prison complex unless you vote to instill love, honor, and integrity into the halls of liberty and justice for all.

### **"Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda: Why Should I Vote?" by Kevin Schoen**

. . . *"This country has discriminated against people like me for a long time, so I'm not going to bother to vote."* The country never discriminated



against you; it was some of the people who did, and they thank you for not showing up to vote. You further empower those who misuse power against you by your absence from the process and your lack of willingness to accept power.

. . . *"One person's vote doesn't make a difference."* Remember it took just one too many drops of water to breach the levee in New Orleans. We may be but a drop of dew, but together we are an ocean.

*"I don't like the electoral college system, so I'm not going to vote until they change it and*

*make presidents elected by popular vote.”* Whether good or bad, if it is to be changed, someone will have to do it. Without you, who will vote for the changers that will do the changing?

*“Elections are always a choice of the lesser of two evils, and my religion teaches me to only do good so I’m not voting.”* My religion says to stand in the face of evil that justice might prevail. Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth,” but if the salt has become tasteless, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under foot by men. The Bible parable about God rewarding those that did not bury their talents kind of says it all for me.

While my rebuttal to each reason may sound like it makes sense, it is my contention that the issue of whether to vote is really about power and control. With full respect to the authors of these reasons for not voting, I’d like to point out that in an economy of power, each one of them has assumed a subordinate position. We can wait until “they” change the system, or we can realize that “they” like it without us messing up their “program”; and “they” have no plans to change.

537 people who wanted to vote in Florida are the people who put George Bush in the White House. That was the

final recount. They changed the world forever, good or bad. For one second, let’s go back to my analogy about being given world changing power and the responsibility that goes with it. Our forefathers, in their wisdom, bestowed all of that power on us, one vote per person. Yes I will still feel bad if I am wrong in my choices even though my part is smaller than in the analogy. I will always know that my intentions are good. I encourage everyone who reads this to own this awesome power of the vote.

### **From Sherri Bester’s “Why Vote?”**

Please, let me hold in my hands like a potter does clay your brilliant mind for a moment. Imagine your great-great-great grandmother Maya secretly hidden in a hot, dark, smelly barn far away in the forest. She is frantically crying out in desperation both moans and groans to an unseen God while the Master beats your great-great-great grandfather Ralph literally to death’s doorway.

Danger screams out across the echoing forest, and the sights sounds, smells, tastes, and touches of abuse and murder

prevail. . . Big Mama Maya weakly crawls over with bruised knees and trembling hands towards her beloved husband of over 50 years counting. . . Crawling slowly in unbearable pain and suffering your great-great-great grandmother Maya moves closer towards your great-great-great grandfather Ralph in hopes to help him survive past his destiny of death. . .

Fiery, red, scorching, hot blazes of volcano juices pierce her thighs into crippled convolutions . . . throbbing and aching from the violation of the Master’s rape filled punishment. Yet Big Mama Maya miraculously merges just enough strength to reach her doomed destiny. Big Daddy Ralph hangs there from the barn yard ceiling by a rope slightly swinging in freedom. . . Brutally beaten, bruised and bloody without one single breath of life left within him, your great-great-great grandfather was hanged from a lynching for the high price of your protection, justice, and freedom.

This was the final lynching that broke your Big Mama Maya’s heart. . . Before she died she managed to whisper these words in great power and demand out in the death-filled air of an empty echoing barn in that deep, dark forest of Mississippi madness, “It was worth it all for you, my great, great, great





grandchildren, to at least try to sneak through the forest at nightfall to join the movement, protest and campaign of your forefathers, so that you each one day will cherish in the great glory of justice and freedom ‘The Right to Vote!’”

Please, my brilliant brothers and sisters . . . if for no other rhyme or reason, think of the blood shed by our great forefathers and foremothers in great sacrifice and great suffering and then go register to . . . VOTE! “Stand up and be counted” . . . VOTE! “Register your protest with a corrupt system” . . . VOTE! “This country has discriminated against people like you for a long time” . . . VOTE! . . . I remember the blood that was shed by our forefathers and foremothers, and I don’t want all that blood to be shed in vain. So I fight past all my fears, rejections, and excuses, and I VOTE! This is a meaningful way to honor our ancestors . . . VOTE! . . . Stand up boldly and don’t be outtricked by a corrupt system that sometimes sets up false stumbling blocks to detour you, frustrate you, and guide you to give up. . . VOTE!

Come out of that cave and do not give in to your lack of knowledge . . . VOTE! . . .

### **Why Vote?**

**by Naomi Kharrazihassani**

We live in a country where you have the privilege to vote.

I think you should vote! By having the majority of people vote, our country supports democracy

and the people’s choice. In some countries, they have only one person to vote for. . .

Voting shows other countries that democracy can work. But not everyone here in the USA has the right to vote either. If you are not 18 years old, you are not able to vote. Some people lose their right to vote if they committed a felony or are under parole. Also, there are those illegal immigrants who do not have the right to vote and their voices are never heard in the voting process.

Sometimes, people decide not to vote. There is too much snow, the voting place is too full, or their car is not working. Many minority groups such as Hispanics, blacks and other races feel they won’t be represented, so they don’t vote. There are many excuses, but I believe people can have a voice in America.

One important reason to vote is that thousands of soldiers have given their lives during wars such as World War I, II, and the Vietnam War defending our freedoms in this country. Not to vote makes less the meaning



of the sacrifice of their lives. Another reason it is important for us to vote is because we elect people that will make decisions about war. . . .

In the United States, you have the privilege to vote, so what are you waiting for?

You have the freedom of speech.

You also have the freedom of religion.

You have the freedom to vote.

### **Why Vote?**

**by Elizabeth Red-Cloud**

United States of America, our land is called. United we need to stand for the better of our country.

One person’s vote doesn’t make a big difference, but all of ours will! We need to take a stand, as a group, and do what’s right. Just think, if we had all voted four years ago Bush may not have made it into office. Someone else as president maybe could have done something different and we wouldn’t be at war right now. People, a lot of people, have had their lives taken from them just for fighting for what they believed, some for no reason other than the war.

I was brought up to believe



that my people (Native Americans) should not vote nor get involved with politics. Those people took our land and killed my people.

Now that I'm older I understand the importance of understanding how our government works and why we all need to vote! Just think, if back then if we would have had a strong government, my people would not have endured such pain and neither would African Americans that we sold into slavery. . .

Come on, people, stand up, become united, united for which we stand!

I agree our government is corrupt, and I know others do too. That's even more reason to be involved. Help make a change. Stand up for what you believe.

Odyssey, we all come together for class and support each other. So let's all come together and vote this year.

LET'S ALL VOTE! You never know, we can make a big difference in who gets elected this year. We could have our first woman president or our first black president. Let's change the norm and VOTE.

**From Debby Loftsgordon's  
"All Women Stand Up and Let  
Your Voices Be Heard"**

I consider myself to be a modern day feminist woman.

Let not the lives of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady

Stanton be in vain.

All women stand up and let your voices be heard. . .

Let not the activism of Coretta Scott King's march in Washington and Rosa Parks' bus boycott be in vain.

Women today still receive less pay for the same job as a man.

Women today still receive inadequate maternity leave of absence when conceiving or adopting a child.

All women stand up and let your rights be counted for, and do not be denied your basic civil rights as a woman.

Throughout the centuries women have been disregarded and dismissed as second class citizens in this country and around the world. . .

Let Lady Liberty shine bright! Shine your inner light! Pass down the torch of our feminist ancestors' light! Let their light not be diminished for all eternity.

All women stand up and let your voices be heard. Vote for Hillary Rodham Clinton to be the next President of the United States.

**"I'll Fly Away or Civil  
Disobedience or Why I would  
Not Vote"**

**by Rockameem**

Persecution and torture,



slavery. .

.Did anyone ask if I wanted to be American?

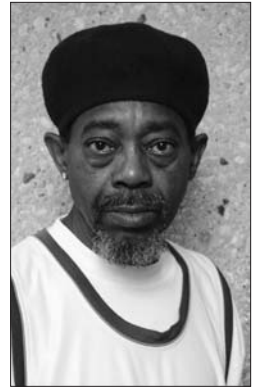
. . . Like Fannie Lou Hamer, "I'm sick and tired of being sick

and tired." What happens to a dream deferred? . . .

I can't have a free life in America. I can't vote when all of my rights to life are consistently denied. The present administration is carrying on the greatest preparation for war in the history of mankind; the weight of our taxation is unbearable, and this administration is dominated and directed by wealth for the accumulation of wealth.

Vote for who? . . . Stop yelling about a democracy that I do not have. . . The history of this country is genocidal from where the buffalo once roamed to where our ancestors were slaughtered from New Orleans yesterday to New York, from Birmingham Jail to Boston, and to the Caribbean, and what about Hiroshima and Nagasaki to Saigon and now Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan. Did our vote do that? Oh, yes.

Let freedom ring. Civil Disobedience 101. I'll fly away.





## Gauging Gandhi

Gandhi says that only when a man is non-violent does he become truly a man. Non-violence requires self-sacrifice and humility. We must try to remain calm and friendly when dealing with our opponents if we want to be successful and change the situation for the better. Being successful in a violent way is not a triumph of victory but of defeat. If we truly want to be victorious, we should use non-violence as our weapon and our belief. **(Nosihle Lukhele)**

Gandhi stood for the truth. He emphasized non-violence as a method to solve a problem. Gandhi reminded me of Socrates because he was true to himself. He didn't care about his physical being but his mental state. **(Josephine Lorya)**

Satyagraha, or "soul force," practices non-violent resistance. Gandhi said, "Forgiveness is more manly" than violence. This statement is profound. I believe he tries to tap into our consciousness, inviting us to become aware of our egos. **(Severn Anderson)**

Gandhi's message of non-violence echoes Thoreau's perception to not contribute or support a despot that gives lip service to justice. Like Thoreau, Gandhi believes that a protester's heart and soul should go into alleviating society from corrupt doctrine. . . . He believes that it is in man's nature to love one another. If we could extend that

family love to a love for all, the world would be a better place. **(Tom Gardner)**

Gandhi wants everyone to be accountable for themselves—to practice solid and silent self-sacrifices. That is the only way non-violence will work. **(Brenda Tompkins)**

The difference in what Gandhi practiced, Satyagraha, and what Thoreau practiced, civil disobedience, is Gandhi's belief that you are not to be violent whatsoever. . . . To be a non-cooperationist, which is what you were called if you practiced Satyagraha, you would have to show humility even when your opponent pushed you to your limit . . . to be always non-violent even when there has been violence done unto you. You can not be angry with someone that injures you, you can not wish them harm, you can not swear at them, and you can not cause him any physical hurt. Satyagraha equals pure love. Although in a perfect world we would all practice this, I don't think that it is realistic to always turn the other cheek. If I had to choose between being a follower of Satyagraha and civil disobedience, I would choose civil disobedience. **(Sheriah Quartey)**

To make an effective and positive change in the world, use the tactic of non-violence . . . just like Mahatma Gandhi from India did. After all, as the old adage would

say, "violence begets violence." **(Debby Loftsgordon)**

He believes that no matter what, we all should live a non-violent life. He even talks about not killing flies, which I thought was pushing it a bit, but I understand why he says he wouldn't. It's a living creature, and regardless of how it came to live, he doesn't have the right or want to harm it or anything else. **(Candy Gonzalez)**

The moral wealth of mankind means more than hating the oppressor. To show that one is righteous, one must refrain from acting as an animal. **(Jessica Bhan)**

Gandhi is a bad man! I say this with all the honor and respect due a great human being. Gandhi's philosophy of non-violence tests a person's true beliefs and demonstrates silent self-sacrifice. I'm grateful for Gandhi today because although he died in 1948, the life he lived and the examples he set have made my life easier in 2008. **(Dwayne Blue)**

When a person claims to be non-violent, he is expected not to be angry with one who has injured him. . . . I can relate this to my own life because in recovery we're taught to pray for people not to wish ill will upon them. **(Elizabeth Red Cloud)**

## Joining Emily Dickinson in the Orchard: Responses to “Some keep the Sabbath going to Church”

*Some keep the Sabbath going to Church—  
I keep it, staying at Home—  
With a Bobolink for a Chorister—  
And an Orchard, for a Dome—*

*Some keep the Sabbath in Surplice—  
I just wear my Wings—  
And instead of tolling the Bell, for Church—  
Our little Sexton—sings.*

*God preaches, a noted Clergyman—  
And the sermon is never long,  
So instead of getting to Heaven, at last—  
I’m going, all along*

This poem expresses the author’s view that there is no need to go to church to have a relationship with God. The poem talks about staying home instead of going to church. Instead of listening to a choir, she listens to the birds singing. She does not need special clothes or special religious buildings and ceremonies. She said she gets her message directly from God instead of a different preacher. She also does not need to wait to go to Heaven because she is already there.

I think this poem expresses a lot of what I feel about organized religion. I do believe there is some value in the fellowship of attending regular church services. I do not believe that the only way to have a relationship with God



is through the church. I believe that God is everywhere. I think a person can connect with God without having to attend a church service.  
(Mandisa Hayes)

Spirituality is a very personal thing that needs no standing edifice and elaborate uniforms to show sincerity in belief.  
(Justin Wilson)



I agree with Emily Dickinson’s poem because God sends His message to me through those in my everyday life. As long as I have applied the principle of



love, I’m already in a place called heaven on earth. (John Shields)

This poem stirred me personally. I react to how man changes his religions (for me this means the Bible) to suit man. I believe that God is Love, not a bunch of hoops to hop through in the pursuit of piety. There is a reason Jesus overturned the tables of the money changers: that was man’s creation.  
(Kevin Schoen)



This poem tells the story of God’s presence all around us each and every day. Instead of going to church where you are closed in, Ms. Dickinson has church among God and his creations—the bobolink singing praise to God





outside in the field of fruit trees, with nature's beauty as the dome. Her wings represent the freedom to find the beauty God

created and to listen to the sounds of nature's singing. God is the preacher in this church, and Ms. Dickinson believes as long as she stays with God and listens to the messages given by God, she's on her journey to Heaven all the days of her life.

I agree with Ms. Dickinson and share the belief that God will preach to you if you'll take the time to listen. . . . I like to walk through the Arboretum in the summer and fall, and here I found myself to be at peace. My thoughts are not so bunched together, and I can receive guidance from the Creator. I listen to the birds, watch the chipmunks, and marvel at the many colors God creates. Nature is an excellent example of God's power, and in nature I find peace with God: Heaven.

**(Jeffery McCarroll)**

I do agree with Ms. Dickinson's idea that you don't have to go to church; you can have church inside you. Jesus said, "On this rock I'll build my church." I think that was the way she wanted her life to be, as if she was always in the spirit with her God.

**(Rockameem)**



I don't agree with Emily Dickinson that staying home is the same as going to church in order to keep the Sabbath. By going to church and listening to the word of God, you get some guidance from your pastor, minister, priest, rabbi, or imam. These people guide you in the right direction in any special area that you need.

I will relate this to Odyssey class. I come here, and sometimes people say, why don't you just ask which book to read? But Odyssey class is not just there to tell me which books to read. It encourages me to read and to use critical thinking. If I have any questions, I can ask Professor Emily or Marshall about them. I receive guidance. . . . Remaining at home instead of participating in a more social environment would not allow me fully to grow and learn.

**(Naomi Kharrazihassani)**

Many people worship God or give praise and thanks by going to church. The writer is saying she keeps the connection with God by worshipping him in her heart . . . with the melody of the songbird as her angelic choir. Some wear white as a sign of purity, but she walks the walk and



talks the talk allowing her wings to flourish. . .

On a personal level this poem hits home. I sometimes enjoy just being alone with God. It doesn't always mean I have to be in the building to worship God. Some wear white, others wear black, but I just wear me.

**(RJ Knight)**

The poem is a testimonial to the fact that God exists everywhere. Dickinson revels in the fact that nature is

God's temple and the sound of birdsong is a heavenly chorus. The materialism associated with church is righteously replaced with trees for a church steeple and colorful birds to replace the false white of purity. Most of all, we are all angels spreading our wings upon this heavenly earth.

One of the many things I tried to teach my son was a love of life. Life is most evident in the bee as it zigzags in search of life's sweet nectar. As a bird takes flight I taught him to look at the unfolding of its wings as its neck stretches towards another world of sailing upon the hot winds of summer. When flowers would bloom, we would observe subtle changes as they broadcast their beauty to the world. I let him know that God must have made the forest for man; for it is only man who appreciates the colors of the rainbow and the windsong passing through the oak tree leaves. **(Tom Gardner)**



## Doing Time By Jeffery McCarroll

What of a man that commits a crime?  
Should he give his life for a time?  
While sitting in time should he gain an education?  
Or does society fear he'd rule a nation?  
Should he live for free off you and me?  
Or should he suffer for eternity?

What of a man that commits a crime?  
I say remember the man is doing time  
In his body and his mind.  
This will haunt him  
Until the end of time!  
Punishment eternally!

Physical freedom is easy to obtain  
But freedom of the mind can drive a man insane.

