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ODYSSEY



ORACLE

MAKING A CASE FOR SEMESTER TWO



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MAKING A CASE FOR SEMESTER TWO

As the Fall 2024 semester ended, all 30 resilient Odyssey students made a case for why they should continue their journey together into the Spring 2025 semester.



Blake's "Songs of Experience," Malcolm X's "Homemade Education," and Kate Chopin's "Story of an Hour": Since starting Odyssey, my spirit, state of mind, and my whole self have shifted... More than shifted. My way of

looking, observing, and experiencing the world has changed. Remembering my old self, or the person I was in September, I remember a shy, quiet, submissive, and dull woman, not because I lacked luster or had no passion for writing. I lacked the love for description, the lack of love to write each letter and word my mind and heart wanted to yell.

Since starting Odyssey, my writing has grown roots—roots that have spread to my personal, professional, and future lives. The Odyssey community has encouraged, strengthened, and nurtured me and my family. Am I a writer? Yes. I am a writer of love, writer of sorrow, writer of truth. Odyssey has elevated my voice, pen, and spirit. Odyssey has gifted me the will to put a bullseye to my passion: to be a writer and educator. **(Angelica Alvarez Valenciano)**



When I think of myself, I could say a lot of things. Kind, smart, funny, pretty. I could go on. But when I think of myself on a deeper level, I'd say I'm just looking for the love I've never received. This class has taught

me to write about and think about things I've never wanted to surface. I am remembering what everything was like that created who I am. I've created friendships with people who I don't think I would have met if it weren't for this program/class. I've reviewed so many different writing/language tools that will help me in the future with work and school.

Also, I never even thought about going back to school until I got accepted into this program. My goal now is to be the first generation! I've helped out my classmates; I feel like making them come out of their shells and bringing smiles and advice to those who needed it. I've learned so many words that I never would've used, not even in my vocabulary. I've read books I'd never read; I've opened up about my trauma to strangers – because maybe it will help them in the future. I've gained confidence in my ability to be in school and continue on. I never would've thought I'd be in school again after five years of not being in it.

I am so grateful for the opportunity and can't wait to accomplish more. I hope to continue the second semester with greater friendships, greater knowledge on my writing and language skills, and being able to open myself up more to talk about things I normally wouldn't talk about. I want to get out of my comfort zone of doing things I would do and wouldn't do. I want to use the vocabulary words and the usage demons more outside of class and read more books. I want to go to more tutoring nights to get my homework done and get any help I need. I want to dive deeper into talking about finishing school and getting a degree in the future. I want to do better for me. **(Kyianna Baker)**





I enjoy this class so much. I'm very happy I was chosen to be a part of the Odyssey Program. Pure

joy comes to me in every class. I want to keep learning and expanding my brain. This class has been more than what I've expected. I'm grateful for my classmates and teachers. When I was introduced to Odyssey, I never knew I would be filled with so much love and patience. It has been a blessing for my family and me.

I need this class. I am looking forward to graduating in 2025 with all of my classmates. This is the best thing I've done for myself in about 14 years. That's why you've given me a chance again at making my life change for the better. Please know that I need this class. Honestly couldn't see myself without humanities in my life. **(Tiffany Brenston)**



I applied for Odyssey because I wanted to get back in to growing my education. I want to change my life, continue my education, and keep growing and being a part of Odyssey. Since I was a teenager in Odyssey Junior, I wanted to learn

my mind and what I can really do. I want to be in this program to change my life and my children's life, to get to meet new people and learn new things. I've grown in so many ways with just this amount of time. I've also learned so much from

this class and am still learning, I want to continue this class for my future and my children's future.



I feel like I'm a shy person. Being in this class is helping me get through life because when I'm in class I'm learning something new. It can be therapy sometimes because we are always learning about history and what happened to people in the past. This class is helping me with a lot of my mindset, and we are writing our own stories about our lives being an open book. I am able to write about my family and give them support and tell them how I think about them. My interest in applying is getting to know who I am and how to write my story on paper. I want to show my sibling to still reach and achieve your goals. No matter what life throws at you, live in the present. **(Qu'Anna Caffey)**



Hello Emily, first I want to say thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity. My son and I both are very happy. My son loves coming and has made friends while here; teachers love him.

I feel I should stay because I'm really putting my all in these classes, showing up on time ready to go and taking advantage of the Monday studies when I feel confused. I'm learning so much and feel like I'm finding myself even more. I really want to stay for another semester. I'm learning about my writing even more. In the beginning I felt very discouraged, but I'm now knowing when and where to put commas and where to stop and start another paragraph.

When Wednesday comes, I feel very excited. I finally have something I can look forward to, being happy, feeling accomplished. I don't want to stop here. I want to keep growing and be one of the spokespersons who come and talk to classes after us. Emily, I'm begging for another chance with this once in a lifetime opportunity. I will continue to give my all and show up. There's no better feeling than knowing I'm in college working towards something that I can have on my background other than just working jobs to just make a way.

This program is a huge blessing where you can come here and truly be yourself and not worry

about being judged. I will be the first child out my family to walk across the stage getting a degree, and that's a huge accomplishment that I would love my mother, son, and family to see. I just don't want to stop here; I feel like I'm just getting started. I've learned so much already. I also feel I contribute good energy in the class, always engaging, willing to help Emily with reading, volunteering to stand up in the middle of class and engage, keeping the energy good.

If I am accepted to keep going, I will keep sucking in all the new information I can to set me and my son up for success. I have learned a lot and want to learn more and grow more with the Odyssey family! My son and I are very grateful.

(Eleanor Ceaser)



Wow! Odyssey journey has opened my mind as well as stimulated my intellect! The activity and energy the class sessions deliver is beyond doubt amazing! There was a point when my personal situations were very challenging, and I didn't think

that Emily had chosen the right person, but she assured me that I was. The support from her and the Odyssey staff assisted me in helping myself get through the obstacles that presented themselves, and I did just that. Having catch-up assignments as well as trying to complete current assignments helped me tremendously in getting back on

track, recovering from my emotional breakdown; it was incredible! I did not expect that my class projects would be the pill that fixed most of my ailment.

Being a part of semester one has inspired me to want more, like a kid in a candy store. I want to take the journey as far as I can take it. There is some apprehension, but I want to believe in myself. Besides – I'm feeling sad that the semester is coming to an end. I'm really going to miss everyone while we are on break. So, I'm excited about the spring semester startup! See you there! **(Timothy Comer)**





When I first applied for the Odyssey Project, I had already completed a semester of their Odyssey Beyond Bars Program and wanted to continue on with the personal growth I had seen in myself. We are now a week away from the semester ending and I cannot believe how fast these past few months have gone by. Week after week I noticed our classroom community get more comfortable with each other, and it came out in everyone's work. From everybody's interpretation of the allegory to reading everybody's woman of courage, you can see everyone in the classroom open up and trust the great sense of community that the Odyssey Project provides.

As for next semester I feel like I'm just getting started. This past semester has been great but I'm not satisfied; I still feel like I have a lot more to go. With the continued momentum of this semester, I feel like the spring semester will be even better.
(Dillon Dahlk)



I should continue into the second semester because I am learning so much about literacy, music culture, myself, etc. I didn't think I would take away from this class what I have already experienced

thus far. I am eager and excited to learn and experience more! I am optimistic and I love to adventure and learn. I am present in class and engaged. I'm invested and interested to see what else this class has in store. I am honestly grateful to have been chosen for this class and to have met everyone here. I am grateful for the connections I've made and for the friends I've made also. I am intrigued by the assignments given and the lessons I've learned.

I honestly didn't expect it, but I can't wait to see where this class will take me next. I look forward to succeeding in this class and graduation. **(Gela Docks)**



I've gone through a lot since the first initial essay (applying for Odyssey). Even at that time things were hard – they still are, maybe always will be. The Odyssey Project has been the constant in my life that's kept me strong in terms

of continuing to do something for myself, for my mind. To know that there will be a day with cap and gown on (I'll most likely be in my 30s) I'll be crossing a stage with a doctorate, I will in my mind's eye be walking in this room knowing this is where it started. The appreciation I have for the people in this classroom for collectively making it a safe space to share who we are in writing or out loud – this energy I love contributing to, to make everyone feel safe and free to be silly and raw. Stepping back – being part of the second semester, even the next step up in Odyssey alumni classes, it's a contribution to my dreams – the future I've built in my mind that's bigger than myself...but to come back to this room in 10 years and say, "Welcome, Odyssey class, to your first year. I'm Brianna, Class of 2025. I'm a doctor for fish, dog, cats, reptiles and so many other amazing creatures, and I was where you are – it's worth it." **(Brianna Espanol)**





This semester has been very eye opening for me. I'm finding out how I like to study, what parts of school I find interesting. All these things are helping me understand myself better as well as helping me grow as a woman and mother. I feel that I should go into the next semester because I am very engaged and participate whenever given the chance. I try to keep a smile on my face and uplift the other students in any way I can. I take this opportunity very seriously, and every day I give myself, my child, and this class everything I have.



Even though life has thrown me many curve balls since the beginning of this process, I feel I have overcome every obstacle, while still maintaining my place in this class. I feel I should move on to the next semester because I honestly need it! This class makes me want to stay sober. It gives me a safe place to be open, honest, and creative. I feel productive, uplifted, and motivated. This class showed me that next semester is meant for me. I am meant to be here because here feels like a safe haven. **(Adrienne Farrow)**



Hi, my name is Jamal. I came into this class not knowing what to expect, hoping that it was really something that I wanted to do. To be honest, I love it! The class gives me strength to express myself, no one is judgmental, and the teachers and UW students are down to earth, smart, and willing to help you with any questions you may have. I've learned a lot already, some things that I never knew existed, like the word rhetorical, asking a question you already to the answer to.



I want to continue the second semester because there is so much more to know, plus I feel comfortable now. I feel if I can do it anyone can do it; that's why I try to bring my good sense of humor, keep the smiles rolling with learning at the same time. I thought Odyssey was just a group talk program, but this is way much more. It's a brotherhood, a safe place, and an opportunity to try something new in life. **(Jamal Jackson)**



I am here still determined to reach my goals and success; this has been a long but fruitful journey. I have accomplished so much more over these

last few months than I thought I'd be able. Even if sometimes I still struggle to meet the deadlines or complete everything right when I want, I still try. With all I have happening in my life, I'm just proud of myself for showing up and paying attention, trying to get the most out of the experience.

I feel I've been given resources to help with my focus and consistency. I have been blessed with a wider support system than before. I've been shown I'm not alone and that everyone is struggling in their own way. If those around me are going through it and still showing up, it lets me know that I can too. I'm not sure how I'm contributing fully other than the fact I kept my promise to keep showing up, even when things get hard. I would like to continue in my Odyssey because I still have more to learn. I also don't want to start something and not finish it. This has been a really challenging journey for sure, but there is still room for growth and time for things to get better.

(Aaniyah Jefferson)



I am an outgoing, eager to learn individual. I love to learn new things and I am a quick learner. I apply things that I learn to my life, and I even work to see the positive in everything. I am resilient and diligent. Even

when I feel sad, I always make an effort to stay positive.

So far, I've gotten quite a bit out of this course. I knew nothing about Plato's cave, only what I've heard in movies. I did not know it was something that I could have applied to my life and everyday reality. Reading about Plato's Allegory of the Cave was "eye-opening" and astonishing.



I also learned many words that I never knew existed, which opens my vocabulary to a new level.

I feel like I've contributed to this learning and wondrous opportunity by coming to class weekly and participating. I love to read and come out of my comfort zone

by getting up and interacting with my classmates. Even though I fell behind a few times on homework, I push forward and get my work done.

I look forward to being a part of this class in the second semester because I am over the hills of what is to come. Learning new things makes me feel like I am becoming better. Being here brings me joy and helps uplift me on rough days. My classmates are awesome and super funny. Seeing some of my classmates' writing challenges me to become a better writer. This opportunity has really been a blessing to me and my children, and I am truly happy to be here. **(Gloria Knight)**





I want to continue Odyssey for so many reasons that I'm not sure where to start. From the beginning I could tell there would be so much support and love from the teachers and the staff in the class and throughout the building. When I first started Odyssey, I wasn't in the best place but I was for sure in a better place than I am now. In the beginning I was interested in the class for everything it offered such as the credits, the food, and everything else that was explained to me when I was told to apply.



First semester in I thought it was going to be a walk in the park and, at first, it was. I was on time—homework turned in on time, doing well on the assignments and class, and then everything changed so fast. Now that it's the end of the semester, I'm seeing how much deeper the class is, how much it means to me, and the strength it's bringing me to try and push through something I'm really struggling with right now.

The biggest goal for me is to graduate with the class and walk across the stage with the few people that love me watching me and being proud of me. During this time in the class I have gotten help with everything from my homework to food to take home, gifts for my kids, everything I needed so badly at this time, and I am so grateful. I love that I see I can do it. This class is a test for me because I plan to continue my education. If I can't complete this, can I complete nursing school and beyond? So much goes through my head and I am all over the place. I feel 1,000 different ways. My head never slows down and stops so I can just have clear thinking. Even writing this I feel like it's all over the place, but I really am all over the place. I am slowly learning structure, how to deal with things

that are difficult, and how to ask for help because that's something I wouldn't usually do. I am grateful for the teachers, the food, the love, and the opportunity in general because this is really a test for me to see if I can push through this difficult time in my life.

I want to continue to start my school journey that I promised to myself to show myself and my kids how strong I am, to let my grandma see her first grandchild to actually walk across the stage, the first to go on to actually graduate college and graduate from a real university. I'm proud of myself for making it this far. If I stopped now, I would be so disappointed in myself because I know I can do it. I'm going to make it through this hard time, but I want to focus on graduating and being my best self. Now that I realize how much deeper it is and that it's so much more than a class, I am so thankful I got this opportunity out of all the people that applied. I meant what I said when I started, and I hope to come back focused and on top of my work and no longer being behind. Thank you for the opportunity. I love the staff and appreciate everything you guys have given to me and how you have never judged me for my situation. I will graduate! **(Crystal Lee)**



I believe I should be a part of the second half of the semester because I put a lot of effort into the class and the homework. It's not easy being a single mom, working and making sure I'm on top of homework, but it's something I look forward to. Odyssey is teaching me structure, and it's also giving my kids something to be excited about.



understand, and analyze, to be able to respond to answers in the best possible way I determined to be right.

The Odyssey Project has been a life changing adventure for me, and I have come to realize its importance in my life ever since. I want to be a better person, to be compassionate and accept diversity. These are qualities that I had missing in my life. I have come

Odyssey is not only pushing me to do better but it's making my brain work; it's opening my mind and teaching me so much I never knew! In a way it's sort of like a therapy for me. I get to write down things I don't normally talk about, and it gets me out of the isolation I put myself in. I love to be around the other students because it helps me un-learn social anxiety. I will continue to work hard and let my creativity out in the second semester. I am determined and courageous. I know I will do well and exert myself in the last semester of class.

(Mariya Lucas)



My interest was informed by my anticipation of the Odyssey Project to be life changing, forming positive minds, and an opportunity to be a better person in essence. But when I got confirmed to be a part of the project, I came to realize

that there is even more than those expectations. The Odyssey Project creates a platform for people to realize their potential, to believe in themselves, and to find a sense of belonging and community. Through the program I have developed writing skills, learned to develop a personal perception about things, and learned to constructively argue and analyze things. This program also exposed me to a whole new world of history, literature, music, and art, among others. I have come to build my capacity in course work that challenges me to read,

to want more of what I am becoming, and that only can happen through my continuity into the program.

As a result, the above realities are testament to my desire to continue in the project. I have come to realize that I am refined, I am better, and that is courtesy of Odyssey. In line with the project's intended objects and goals, the project drags people out of their ruin of life and makes them better for society.

The aforementioned reason establishes my willingness to continue. I hope the project shares my reasons and is positive about this so I may continue in the coming semester.

(Aflusainey Manjang)





I feel that though I was doubtful, I applied for the Odyssey Project because I wanted to push myself for an opportunity to help myself and my family. I understood that it would be a lot of

work, and that I might struggle at times with either homework or maybe attendance. I knew that I would often be pushed past my personal comfort zone. I understood that as a naturally quiet, introverted person I would feel very out of place.

During my short time in the program, I have accomplished way more than I imagined. I've managed to stay focused even when things around me were crumbling, when I had little to no energy after work to do my homework, staying caught up in all assignments. I have sat in a classroom full of mostly strangers and started to feel a sense of comfort and that maybe I'm not as less deserving or unable to comprehend the assignments as I had feared. While I still shy away from speaking in front of others, I've pushed myself to read aloud in class and engage in conversation. I'm determined to see this through to the end and see where the path leads me. I feel excited about learning again and feel myself slowly opening up. Thank you for everyone's encouragement and genuine desire to help everyone succeed.

(Vanessa Martinez)



I feel that I should be able to continue this course through May because I feel that I already have bettered myself within this time period. Not only have I met people from all walks of life, but I am at the point where even if I'm having a bad day, I still want to attend class. I want to laugh, talk, and just get my mind off everyday problems. I have learned new words, multiple autobiographies, how to adapt to someone sitting next to me with different beliefs.

I want more in this course than I have throughout the past year. In the second half of this course, I



will volunteer more, complete every assignment on time, and continue to come to class.

(Alexis McClain)



Going into the second semester I am moving steady with momentum. Spring of 2024 I graduated from the UW-Madison Eievando WI Program. Education has allowed me to orient myself, actions, and beliefs at the root of who I am. I belong in a classroom. Being at UW Odyssey has reminded me of the power in connections. I recall a teacher in high school, Mr. Hertal, pulling me aside. We were in a tech-ed shop, and somehow in the most unlikely of places Mr. Hertal made a point to say, "No matter what you do in life, make sure you are a teacher." Mr. Hertal was ranked retired military. In his woodshop class I was always curious and willing. In return he was always gentle and kind. When he shared a glimpse of my purpose, I had never seen him so serious.

Every day I am falling deeper into myself. Every time I show up in class, I know I am fulfilling my purpose. Odyssey has helped me regain my confidence in a classroom. As I continue growing and learning, I know we will all feel the magic of empowerment through education. **(Mickey Mestiza)**



I believe that I should continue the second semester because I am giving this class my all, trying to gain as much as I can. I try my hardest to keep up and not fall behind with the homework, and I try to participate. Most of the events that are offered [Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra concert; APT play] have opened me up to be introduced to things I knew not much about, things/places I never knew I would make it to. I met influential people like in the orchestra show.



I would love to see what the second semester has to offer. This semester I feel like staring out was a breeze for me and then it did get difficult. I love that. I love how Mrs. Emily does not give bad/negative feedback with the homework but is very encouraging, which makes me want to write better and more. I come to class every week with a positive and open mind. I literally look forward to Wednesday nights with my new Odyssey family. I have contributed to the class by being open and honest with my writing, open to participating, and open for the knowledge to come. **(Valree Mosely)**



I am very grateful to be a part of this class and would love to be in a better position to help give back to the community. Getting a better education is the first step to doing so. Every week even outside of class I see the genuine charity that's done by the members in Odyssey, not only from the teachers but from my classmates as well. I appreciate the encouragement and push given and would like to be a part of this movement going forward to continue with something positive in my academic career. **(Daija Pigram)**





I think I should be considered for the next class because I'm gaining a lot of skills. Besides what I'm learning from the course, I'm

learning social skills, confidence, and responsibility. The beginning was hard because my focus was on the wrong things. After my situation with the police, we had a few back-to-back field trips and it was hard remembering to turn stuff in. I believe I caught up, though.

I think it will be good for me as a whole person and I think some of my ideas are a good perspective. I love thinking freely and expressing myself. I'm also working on my communication because I've noticed it is not good at all, and that's a bad quality to have. I'm also happier knowing I'm working to progress instead of feeling comfortable where I am.

Both my parents completed the program, and I was surprised to see my cousin's picture hanging up in the hall as well. It's also very amazing to me that you guys have a day care and feed us; that is amazing. I like that I met new people, and I like that



they want to get to know me. I work so much, I feel like I isolate myself, so this is very nice to me. I have more to say, but time is running out and my pen keeps going out. **(Lailaini Reed)**



Odyssey had been the talk of the town for years now, and I always wanted to be a part of it. Since being in Odyssey, I have gotten more comfortable with my writing style and believing in my work. This semester has built up my courage to be in a bigger school setting. My anxiety has gone down some, and I'm more comfortable opening up to my classmates about my personal writings and also getting help and advice from them.

I believe I should be a part of the class because I'm always here and on time with my work present and ready to learn. Being here has pushed me to go enroll into Madison College to further my education. I'm excited to see what the next semester has to offer. I am happy to continue my education and learn more ideas about reading and writing. **(Tiana Richmond-Lee)**





In this first semester of Odyssey, I have learned more about myself than I thought I knew. I believe I should continue into the second semester because I am very determined to advance my writing and reading skills as well

as anything I can do to help others among MANY other things. I believe Odyssey has truly allowed me to come face to face with my life journey through all of our writings, which I am truly grateful for. These writings have allowed me to think on many things such as my future, bad and good habits, work ethic, and parenting.

This program has also been very beneficial for my children as well. Each week they ask me, "Are we going to your school today?" excited for the next project and time spent with teachers and friends. I am extremely blessed and grateful to experience this with them!

There are many things I've taken away from all of our classes/work, but on the outside of work I am grateful for all of the staff here who are all so welcoming! I can't express how grateful I am for the help financially and mentally, which I don't have at home, leaving me to keep everything bottled up as we enter the long winter months.

I believe I should have the chance to finish what I've started with Odyssey! I would love the chance to be able to continue advancing my writing skills, build great relationships, and be able to have the opportunity to say I DID IT! (with the help of everyone at Odyssey)
<3 (Ashli Smith)



I feel I should continue into the second semester of the program because Odyssey has made me stronger. I feel I am able to come out of my shell here. Being

able to express my voice and everything I have been through truly is a blessing, and I wouldn't want it any other way.

Since getting accepted to Odyssey, I have lost my job, had to move, had no income enough to support my family, and feel like I have hit nothing but holes, bumps, and boulders. For some reason, each and every one of you is always in my head encouraging me and reminding me that I CAN DO IT! I thank each and every one of you with all my heart for being here making me feel special, giving me reasons to believe.

I am only getting stronger with my writing. I am fearless when it comes to expressing myself and letting things out, and I thank you! I have learned about everyone personally and about creative writing, persuasive writing, and run-on sentences. I have learned about repetition, slavery, and so much more, and for that I couldn't be prouder of myself. I feel that I have not contributed in the way that I want to in class due to me being insecure. Watching everyone participate has really been amazing and is pushing me to start. I have contributed by making sure I am consistent and contributed my stories. I would love to continue into the next class in hopes of opening up and not being so nervous and in hopes to excel in my writing and learn more. I am truly thankful and so blessed to be a part of the Odyssey Program and am so excited to watch myself as well as my class succeed. (Corrie Thomas)





Since starting the Odyssey Program, I feel I have grown a lot, not only as a person but intellectually as well. I've gained new perspectives on subjects I felt I knew everything about. I've been exposed to new poets and authors I've never heard

of. I love having homework. It gives me something to look forward to during long shifts at work. I love having something to look forward to, aside from video games and internet drama. The idea that I am actively working toward a better and brighter future fills my heart with joy.

I've started to take new approaches to my personal problems. I have to face them now. That helps more than you know. Thank you, Emily. I am excited for next semester. I look forward to reading the Oracle. I look forward to working with my classmates as we slowly become friends. I look forward to interacting with the staff; they are very nice people. Even if I do not make it into the second half, I am beyond grateful for everything I've learned and the new skills I've obtained. I would like to become a member of Onward Odyssey and hopefully the Odyssey staff in the future. **(Dan Thomas)**

Before Odyssey, I had all but given up on life. I was content that I would be working dead end jobs until I was dead. I had given up on dreams of being a scholar in the field of philosophy. Now, I feel that spark again. I honestly feel that I am on the right paths to achieve those goals.

I have learned so much academically, but I've also gained a lot of social experiences. I've had the opportunity to visit museums, sit in on orchestral performances, and attend an opera, as well as my first poetry reading. These are things I knew I would enjoy but was never able to fund.

I've met a wealth of new people from all walks of life. Needless to say. I'm not as socially awkward as I thought I was.



I believe I should make it into the next semester because I have learned a lot already and opened up my mind to everything we are doing in class. I questioned if I was going to be able to keep my word and not miss any class, and so far,

I've done everything I said and set myself to. When we started, I was just going back to work from having my fifth child. I actually started work and school that same exact day. Being a mother is not easy, but I do love it. I'm proud to have missed no class and not one assignment.

I feel like I also I have so much more to learn as well. I'm really enjoying class and getting to know everyone. I enjoy stepping outside of work and

mom life to sit down and do my homework and come to class. I feel like I belong here; I feel like somewhat a family already. I also feel like I would like to get out of my shell a little more and read and get up more. I'm a shy person lol but I plan to get up eventually.

My children enjoy coming here as well. I love hearing them say they want to go to "Mommy School." It makes me feel good about myself and that I'm creating a good



example for them. I'm so happy to have taken this step to furthering my education. I know I am putting my all into this. I feel like I have contributed to the class with building relationships, giving advice, and reading/ participating. I do want to do more as well. I've come to one homework night, and I really want to come to more next semester. My daughter has dance practice so it's hard, but it's a goal of mine to come out again. We have been helping each other in our group messages and it's very fun. I would love to continue getting to know everyone and furthering my education.

(Janessa Weichmann)



semester because I am hoping to find an even stronger voice and to feel more confident in my ideas and my opinions, and I feel Odyssey can help me with that. **(Abby Wilson)**



I have gotten a lot from this class not only learning wise but also growth as a person. Normally I am the type to sit in the back of the class and not say a word, not volunteer, just do the work and move along, but Odyssey has helped me find my voice and also helped me understand things better like when it comes to writing. I would like to be part of this class second



I believe that I should be able to continue on with the Odyssey Project because I have shown and continue to show my commitment to the program by being present for each class, being vulnerable with my assignments, and putting myself out there. When I was accepted into the program, I was very excited but also very nervous because of the commitment, having to read in front of the class, speaking aloud and many other reasons. As of today, I am WAY MORE confident than I was when I first started the class! This class is making me get over my fear of public speaking, reading aloud and asking questions when needed.



Since starting Odyssey, I have more confidence when it comes to me continuing my education. I truly believe that by the time we finish our second semester I will feel completely different from how I felt when I first started the class. **(Ladella Wilson)**



The reason that I should continue the program is it has woke my brain up and now I am excited to be relearning things that I had forgot or should I say remembered. I am excited

to be back in school learning and getting refresher courses. Knowledge is power and when you learn that gives you more knowledge. Class is exciting, learning with my classmates who have become family. At my age it is really fun for me to learn things and more than ever.

I am just as excited as I was in the beginning just to come and learn. I've always wanted to go back to school but couldn't afford to pay for it myself. Odyssey is the perfect opportunity to get the knowledge I've always wanted to prove to myself I can graduate from college. I want to prove to my grandchildren anything is possible if you put your mind to it. I want to continue through this program until I get my degrees in what I want to study. So if I continue in this program, eventually I will get to where I want to be and fulfill



my dreams of becoming the best person I know I can be to make a difference in the world I live in. It's a fun program they make it very interesting to learn and never give up; that's why I am here every Monday and Wednesday. This is why I feel that I need to keep going in this program. I enjoyed Baron Kelly when we were acting in class. I love to participate in class. Asking questions and reading out loud helps me and brings me out my shell and fear of learning. **(Sable Wright)**

