**Assignment #1 Core Essential Elements**

Throughout my journey in life, I have found that my pre-judgments have played a role in many of my interpretations of things. One main example of this was during a cultural exchange program that I had participated in. This was a program in which we worked with many different people from many different backgrounds. On the first day of this program, we were assigned to work with 7 different people from the Cherokee Nation. Before this program, I had never met a Native American before, and from media and cultural stereotypes, I made many assumptions as to what these individuals would be like. So when certain instances happened throughout this week-long program I had right away placed a wrongful group of assumptions about their behavior and general actions. As we started interacting, interpreting, and experiencing or even just listening to their thoughts and stories, all of us got a larger, more precise, richer idea of what their story was all about. All of the judgments I had about them as a whole group abruptly changed after I started to truly communicate with them face to face and it was truly important for all of us to start learning their culture before making stereotypical opinions about them.

As a student, I have experienced this fusion of horizons in my academic endeavors. When I enrolled in (really) new classes or ones culturally removed from my life, I felt the fusion of horizons. Initially, I was incapable of understanding how the subject related to my life. The subject read in terms of my worldview. However, after studying, being exposed to other points of view, and discussing with other students or the professor, my understanding drastically widened for change. The fusion of horizons brought in other views, and the horizon of my knowledge, the horizon of my artistic or intellectual scope, changed. I understood how true it was that Diversity of Thought was History.

Recognizing and challenging pre-judgments is an important aspect of personal and intellectual growth. The ability to assuage personal bias is important in any type of education or profession. Being able to see past a pre-judgment makes for a better-rounded, complete understanding of what has happened or what will happen around you. To embrace the fusions of horizons is to have an open mind, which shows more than a one-sided perspective on the issue at hand, promoting unison among different backgrounds rather than one.