**Form: "Field Experience Verification"**

Response is required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complete this form after you finish the field experience for this course/internship but before the last day of the semester.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you satisfied your field experience in multiple sites, list at most three of those sites. List the site where you spent the most time first, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name the first site - school building, agency, institution - and give the city in which the site is located.</td>
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<td>Youngstown State University, College of Pharmacy, Dean's Office: Youngstown, Ohio</td>
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<td>Name the second site - school building, agency, institution - and give the city in which the site is located.</td>
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| YSUnity Website: www.ysu.edu/stu_org/ysunity  
YSUnity MySpace Page: www.myspace.com/prideysu |
| Name the third site - school building, agency, institution - and give the city in which the site is located. |
| Utopia Group LTD in Youngstown, Ohio  
The Interbelt Niteclub in Akron, Ohio |
| **Type of site:** |
| Check all that apply. |
| YSU Campus  
Agency Adults  
Agency Youth  
Alternative Site |
| **Total field hours:** |
| 25 to 29 |
| **Students/adults with whom I was in contact at this site are diverse based on the following:** |
| Check all that apply. |
| Gender  
Religion  
Sexual orientation |
**Field Activities**

List your four major activities during this experience, for example, observation, tutoring, assisting in instruction, participating in non-instructional activities, developing instructional materials, micro-teaching, counseling, planning lessons, evaluating instruction, interviewing teachers, contacting parents, etc.

1. Conducted interview with Safe Zone faculty participant

2. Researched YSUUnity articles via YSU website database

3. Emailed and phoned owners of both Utopia Group LTD and The Interbelt Niteclub

4. Reflected

**What adjustment(s) in your behavior did/or will you make based on your experience with the diverse students and/or adults at this site?**

The route in which I decided to go with this assignment is unique because the "site" that I visited essentially has no boundaries or distinct borders; society is truly where I visited. However, for the intentions of this particular question, the interview and online research that I conducted only manifested my initial feelings stronger. In terms of modifying my behavior, I hope - first as a student preparing to be a teacher and then an accredited educator - to be active, or potentially begin, similar programs within the institution that I work. Instead of remaining a silent soldier, I foresee myself speaking out and standing up for the rights and privileges that millions, including a lot of my friends, are not given the chance to partake.

**Reflect on your experience. Specifically describe your activities, what you feel you learned and generally how beneficial or successful each activity was (or was not) for you.**

In starting this project, I decided to seek out diversity within the Mahoning Valley, in particular the YSU student body. Since homosexuality has been debated in the news recently, at least in regards to gay marriage, I figured that this would prove a timely exploration as well as a personally worthwhile one.

First, I contacted emailed and phoned the owners of both Utopia Group LTD in Youngstown, Ohio and The Interbelt Niteclub in Akron, Ohio -- two gay clubs. I first went to this type of establishment because I figured that society would probably have an incorrect stereotype that portrayed the cliental of these properties in a negative light.

Next, I continued my quest in trying to better educate myself by setting up an interview with an YSU Safe Zone faculty participant. An Administrative Assistant to the Dean of the College of Pharmacy has just recently undergone the necessary training to hold such a label. I originally went in with a list of questions, but soon found out that this interview was going to be more of a rich conversation rather than a sterile question and answer interview. My contact used to be employed by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, so she has seen the Safe Zone project, as well as the YSUunity student organization develop from the beginning.
Even before her association with the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, she has enlisted an open-door policy to peers and students alike and continually reiterated that she wished people could look at others for “all of their qualities” and not just who they make their bed with, for example.

The administrative staff member informed me that one has to participate in a two-hour session that includes basic sensitivity training, role-playing experiences, and a series of student presentations centered on their experiences with their homosexuality and the YSU campus. Aside from being personally passionate about this issue, she felt that there needed to be a participant within the Dean’s Office of the College of Pharmacy. She continued to explain that, probably due to the science orientation and moral background of many of the students in this college, homosexuality is more of an issue among both students and faculty, so it only seemed fitting to have Safe Zone participants throughout the entire building.

The interviewed staff member stated that the Dean herself was also scheduled to participate before a family engagement took her away from the training. I asked her if she felt homosexuality would ever be accepted, or at least tolerated, and, if so, what it was going to take. “Not in my lifetime,” she responded, but she felt that a lot of progress had been made since she was a student. She revisited the belief that one needs to accept others for all of their qualities, many of which are unique to that person.

The interview continued with the mutual sharing of religious, family, and other personal stories and ideas that seemed to stem from discussing homosexuality. As I left, I was given a brochure for YSUnity.

I visited the website for this student organization, a gay-straight alliance, and the provided link to the organization’s MySpace account. This student group is not a dating service for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, and question students, but rather a safe forum to watch movies, educate new members, celebrate holidays, and provide many opportunities – National Coming Out Day, for example. This group holds weekly meetings, elects officers, and contributes to the culture of the YSU campus like other student organizations.

Coming away from this experience, I feel like I am more educated about the gay community on the campus of YSU, but will never be able to truly understand the struggle, sometimes of a daily basis, that these students have to go through. Naming-calling, whispering, and being the punch-line of jokes is not a positive light in which to be cast. I only hope that, like the YSU staff member I interviewed, I will communicate a respect people for all of their qualities and help others to feel this way as well.