

Name: _____

JOUR-30253 Quiz 2

October 18, 2007

50 points total

1. Watch and listen to Video #1. Describe and explain the 3 most important or most meaningful-to-you GS terms, principles, or formulations that can be inferred from the video. Do not use the same term, principle, or formulation twice. (10 points)

2. Watch and listen to Video #2.

2a. In which genre would you classify this song? (2 points)

Hip Hop

Country

Adult Contemporary

Electronic/Dance

Pop/Top 40

Alternative

Oldies

Disco

2b. What do you think this song is about? (2 points)

Protest against war

Somebody done somebody wrong

She's the greatest girl in the world

My life sucks and I've got the blues

Life's an amazing party!

2c. Explain how you determined your answers to 2a and 2b. (4 points)

Following are 6 statements that illustrate GS principles or formulations. Explain the principle or formulation that best fits each statement. Use a different principle for each answer. (2 points each,)

3. "He said he didn't like Pittsburgh. But he was only there for a day. He couldn't have seen or experienced very much, so his assessment was based on limited observations."

4. "You either love me or you don't. There's no in between."

5. "I just know he's going to be late because he doesn't know that traffic will be terrible at this hour."

6. "He used to be a radical socialist in college, but now he's married with kids and a Bush conservative."

7. "Just because he's Muslim doesn't mean he wouldn't make a good coach."

8. "I'm never going back there. There was absolutely nothing I liked about any part of that city."

9. The *Dallas Morning News* reported that in New Iberia, Louisiana, the owner and the manager of a skating rink were arrested after the Iberia Parish Sheriff answered a call to break up a fight during a Saturday night teen dance. Sheriff Sid Hebert arrested the owner and manager because they were playing rap music that contained "racial slurs, strong vulgar language and lyrics with an anti-law message," according to the Sheriff's office. The Sheriff blamed the music for the fight. "The music itself cranked the crowd up in a sense," said the Sheriff. "I'm not saying it was fully involved, but certainly kicked it off."

From a GS perspective, what do you think about the appropriateness of the sheriff's behaviors? (10 points)

10. Read the following commentary. Based on your careful reading and GS analysis (provide specifics where appropriate) of the commentary, do you agree or disagree with it? Why or why not? (10 points)

The N-Word

By Dr. Sheron Patterson, KERA 90.1 Commentator
DALLAS, TX (2006-12-06)

The n-word is one of the most racially divisive words in our vocabulary. For centuries it has been the traditional way that non-African Americans demeaned and devalued African American people. The word cuts African American people to the quick because of its vile sting. It dredges up memories of our country at some of its worst points like slavery and Jim Crow. In an ironic twist, most recently the n-word has been embraced by a large segment of mostly younger African Americans. They look over the painful past and have refashioned the word into a term of endearment or even a greeting. The n-word is routinely a part of rap music, as it signifies their solidarity with each other.

So is the n-word positive or negative? It is prickly and precarious to determine who can use the n-word, what context the word is used, and the intent of the user is at that time. There is an unwritten, complicated code of use for the n-word. It goes like this: African Americans can use the term with each other, but people of other races cannot use the word. So, if a non-African American is listening to a favorite rap tune that includes the n-word, they have to know that it is best not to utter that word, even if they are with African American friends, who do utter it. See what I mean?

When Michael Richards, also known as “Kramer” from *Seinfeld* fame used the n-word recently at a Los Angeles comedy club, it was anything but comedy. In the midst of his comedy routine, an African American audience member heckled Richards and he responded by calling the heckler a “n”, over and over again. His n-word tirade was broadcast and downloaded on the Internet by shocked Americans coast to coast.

Richards was out of line. Hecklers are part and parcel of stand up comedy. Richards had the right to put the heckler in his place, just not with the n-word. But his use of the word created a national uproar that caused Richards to hastily seek damage control in the form of an appearance on the syndicated radio broadcast of civil rights icon the Rev. Jessie Jackson. On that broadcast, a penitent Richards explained his actions and apologized. Apology accepted “Kramer”.

Now here is the really interesting part. Of course I was not in the studio with Richards or Jackson, but I believe Richard’s plight must have touched Jackson in a unique way because just a few days later, Jackson was in Dallas addressing a group of local pastors. I heard him appeal to the group to help launch an end to the n-word for everybody of all colors. Jackson called the n-word, “hate speech that ignites, enrages and traps people.” He even went so far as to suggest that the Dallas City Council create legislation that outlaws the word. Whether you love or hate Rev. Jackson, he has a point that America needs to hear and heed now.

Let’s do it. Let’s all agree to end the n-word. Let’s remove it from our vocabularies, our minds, and this society. This is one word we can do without. It is confusing and totally unnecessary. Rap fans can find a new, less volatile way to express solidarity and those who want to slur American Americans with the n-word, just let it go. We are better Americans without this word.

© Copyright 2006, KERA

Extra Credit (optional, up to 10 points)

The following readings were assigned since Quiz #1. For up to 10 bonus points (two points each), select up to five and provide a short statement about something you found meaningful or important from the article.

- C.S. Read Sensory Awareness interview
- Stockdale: 13 Characteristics of Language with a Scientific Attitude
- Stockdale: (Some) Basic Understandings of General Semantics
- Allen: Foreword to *Thinking Creatively*
- Carter: Defining Terms or Describing Things
- White: The Symbol
- Ranly: The Lessons of General Semantics
- Stockdale: How to Size Your Thinking Box
- Bourland: Changing 'Human Nature'
- Weinberg: The Effective Time-Binder and Maslow's "Self-Actualizing Person"
- Read: The Geolinguistics of Verbal Taboos
- Stockdale: A Fence Sieve Language