

As always when something happens to part of the Grant community it eventually affects the whole community. Today we want to take some time to prepare for properly addressing as a community incidents both on campus and via social media that are showing how much more we all have to learn in navigating issues of racism, classism, homophobia, sexism and the many other ways we may stereotype and alienate each other.

We are asking all freshman communities to partake in some serious reflection on these issues. You will be given a journal prompt and ask that you take your time to respond thoughtfully. We will be gathering these and reading them in order to better understand what individuals are experiencing and how to best approach this issue as a larger community.

We also encourage you to speak to your counselors, administrators and restorative justice supports (Marty Williams, Maria Scanelli and Karl Acker Rm 122) to further share how you may be feeling in response to these events.”

**Individual Journal Prompts:**

1) Over the break, the news media reported that someone graffitied swastikas and racist messages on a shed outside Grant HS. There have also been many rumors about racist, anti-woman, and anti-gay postings being made by Grant students on social media. What do you think about this? How does it affect you and your experience at Grant? What affect do you think these things have on the Grant community?

2) There has been a lot of talk in the community lately about "snitching" - i.e. the idea that if you see someone else doing something wrong, you should just keep it to yourself. What do you think about this? What influences whether a person stays silent or speaks up? How does staying silent or telling what you saw affect the Grant community? Which one is more likely to create the community that we want, and why?