

**To:** Sandell, Elizabeth Jill  
**From:** Parkhurst, Jennifer LeeAnn  
**Sent:** Monday, December 05, 2011 10:11 PM  
**Subject:** EEC 222W

Dr Sandell,

*I meant to include this letter in the card, but somehow it slipped out. Although I did not have time to make any final remarks on the Cultural Partnership, I hope that some of this accounts for that.*

A thank-you card can hardly express all that you've done this past semester in EEC 222W. Though I could only mention a few things in the final class period's reflection time, there was so much more that I wanted to say. Unlike so many of the lecture-based classes, Human Relations (quite rightly) forced us out of the classroom, and to take our education into our own hands. For once, it was not rote-recitation/memorization, but hands-on-learning- the kind of teaching that lasts far after graduation. I know that my experiences while volunteering at the Lincoln Center have opened my eyes to an entirely different side of teaching, and to meeting another cultural group – new immigrants learning how to get along in the American culture. I found it a life-lesson to be able to work with one of my tutoring students at the same time, (later, my cultural partner) as she had come through the same program before enrolling here at MSU. In a way, it was an opportunity to look into the future. I regret that I will not be able to do the same with the other adults whom I helped at the Lincoln Center.

On an entirely different note, I wanted to say a huge word of thanks for your efforts while grading my papers. While class was marked as a writing-intensive, your perspective was what really kept me challenging myself. As I've mentioned in passing, few people have kept me on my proverbial toes as this class did, and I am sorely going to miss it. For many of the papers, I was able to express concepts and self-reflections that I've pondered for a long time, but never put to words. At the same time, as learning about myself (especially through the Cultural Biography) I also immensely enjoyed reading the sample/example essays that you had written and posted on D2L. In many ways, I regret that I could not hear more of your stories about teaching and your mission work.

All in all, I can honestly say that I've immensely enjoyed this class, and taking it with you as the professor. This class is truly education as it should be- deep, personal and involved.

I can only repeat myself- thank you for an amazing semester, and I hope to see you in class sometime in the future.