Wesley Sites
HONR 3790
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UNCC a College Renaissance (Layperson Summary)

For many students their time at college is a chance to discover who they are and to
explore new hobbies and extracurricular activities. For me it has been a growing experience and
a time that has fostered interdisciplinary interests and self-exploration, or as my proposal states a
personal renaissance. As I reflect on what my time at college has meant to me I ask the
questions, “who am I now that my college career is coming to a close, in what ways have I
changed as well as stayed the same and does any of it matter?” I will attempt to answer these
questions using the Social Development Theory as an intellectual framework to guide the
discussion.

Social Development Theory explains how we as humans develop and how our
environment, and those around us influence this development. In my portfolio I will attempt to
illustrate how the events of my college career have helped redefine who I am and influenced my
development and growth over these past four years. This growth will be evidence that I have
indeed experienced a “personal renaissance” and will show how I have been molded through my
experiences, in the University Honors Program, into a proactive scholar-citizen.

I have collected five artifacts that have all played a role in my development over my
college renaissance. Each of these artifacts represents an event that has challenged or inspired
me. On their own they are memorable and important to me, but when they are brought together
they help to illustrate the changes that I have undergone over the past four years. Tying my
artifacts into my framework of the Social Development Theory, the image of my renaissance begins to take shape. But what changes has this personal renaissance made and how will it affect me going forward? Perhaps even more important, has any of it mattered?