

Castro Valley High School, with a commitment to excellence, empowers the individual with knowledge,
a passion for life-long learning, and a respect for the principles of our diverse democratic society.

CASTRO VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

A California Distinguished School

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November 17, 2005

Dear Ben,

Thank you so much for your inspiring presentation during Amnesty International USA's Western Regional Conference Curriculum for Change Day. The joint efforts of the National Organization of Men Against Sexism and Amnesty International USA yielded a wonderful outcome that day. Your work, and the work of NOMAS, to prevent domestic violence has natural synergy with Amnesty International's current Stop Violence Against Women Campaign, so I hope this will prove the first step in a continuing professional relationship.

As a public high school teacher, I understand the value of thoughtful performance, especially for adolescents who are still constructing a sense of self, based to an increasing degree on media representations. Thus, your performance, which deconstructs media messages without pedantry or guile, underscores the responsibility each of us must embrace if we are to stop domestic violence in all its forms. My student, Krystle, could not stop talking about your work during our high school chapter meeting yesterday. I hope I can bring you out to my little corner of the world in the coming months. We are nearing completion of a state of the art performance space, which would showcase your talents marvelously.

I feel very fortunate to know you and to count you among my allies. I hope we have the chance to meet and work together in the future.

Much admiration and thanks,



Anne W. Parris
English/ Film teacher
Chair, AIUSA Western Region Human Rights Educators Steering Committee