The Vagina Monologues was an experience that I would suggest all men to take part in. It not only taught me a few things about sexuality but also about life and society in general. For me it was an actualization for what women go through and how they feel. Prior to going or reading the Vagina Monologues, I had the assumption that it was solely about how women were raped or abused physically but it was much more than that. Women talked about everyday problems that they spoke up about that being a man you would not realize. Some annoyances of women were the tampon, shaving the hair around their vagina, cleaning the vagina to make it smell good, examinations just to name a few. While the women in the audience nodded in agreement, the men sat there thinking, “thank God we don’t have those issues.” At first I was shocked at what they were saying then as it went on I came to understand and realized they were just expressing how they really felt.

Even though our society has come a long way, intimate experiences are still really sensitive subjects in today’s society. The Vagina Monologues helps break a barrier that disables us to talk freely about such issues. All the topics talked about in the play and book are just a part of life and need to be addressed just as anything else. Watching the play it seemed like the women were freeing themselves and getting out whatever it was they wanted to say. They were expressing themselves with passion that even as a male you had to be moved by the performances. It gave everyone a sense of understanding or just a feeling of “that’s how I always felt or something similar has happened to me.”
Before the performance, I showed no real interest or desire to attend the Vagina Monologues. This is due in part to being a part of the male gender. I believed that being a male, I had nothing to do with the issues talked about. There were some issues that I was hearing for the first time in my life. Men believe that women should talk to other women friends or mothers about such topics because they do not pertain to us but in reality we are responsible for some of the problems and we need to be aware. The issue of sexual abuse for instance, one might think “I don’t abuse women so I don’t need to hear about it” but men can still help the cause and they may even abuse women without realizing it. In order for the problem to stop men need to be involved too.

In order to become a better society, one without hegemony, men need to understand women and know how they feel. Women need to express themselves as they wish without it being embarrassing. The Vagina Monologues is so outrageous to some people because of the way our society is structured. Some aspects are still male dominated and women do not feel comfortable talking about themselves. That is a flaw in our society because the more we know about everyone (not just males and females but homosexuals, transgender, etc.) and how they feel, the better our society will become. We will be more unified and not be separated into certain groups if we understand and have knowledge about everyone. If everyone is aware of everyone else’s problems, then they can relate with them and not feel so different.

Women have come along to where they are at today with the Vagina Monologues. There is one monologue that is based on older women that never talked about their vaginas before. In this feminist era, women are as vocal as ever, which has earned the respect of all. The Vagina Monologues was purposeful and powerful. I understood the
women’s independence in instances like the monologue about skirts and how men get this idea that they are doing it just for them. That is the kind of issues women deal with and how unbelievable that may seem, it is true. Men think women act in accordance to what men want. Women do not wear skirts for men but because they want to wear a skirt. It is not a sign of any sort and that leads to part of the problem. Some men think it is o.k. to whistle at a woman and act disrespectful just because she is wearing a skirt. That is an example of sexual violence and it is embarrassing that is how some men behave. Women experience degrading behavior all the time by men and the only way to stop it is to speak out and end man’s ignorance.

“Vagina” is a word that a lot of people have trouble even saying. Going even more in depth is just wrong to some, especially males. The Vagina Monologues and the creation of V-Day have given everyone an understanding of women’s issues and more respect for what women go through. I learned and felt more a part of our society through the Vagina Monologues. Men want to turn their back on the issues of women when they ought be listening more than anyone. We need everyone to listen and act to make this world better and safer place for women. It has taken awhile for women to get where they are today which is shameful. We should learn from that and homosexuals and other genders should also speak out and let the world know what they are about. It takes the effort from all but the only way the world will get better is if we understand each other.