

Comments after screenings of Traces of the Trade

- “By creating an atmosphere of safety and openness, the Perry’s cut through the fears (of judgment, of giving offense, of being misunderstood) that often inhibit discussions of race.”
- “Dain and Constance brought the discourse to a gut level, while at the same time affirming everyone’s reactions as perfectly and equally valid.”
- “Many people came with fear that we were just going to stir up guilt and deal with this issue on a superficial level and discovered that it moved the conversation deeper and helped people get in touch with each other’s stories and became a healing, liberating experience.”
- “Programs like yesterday’s give me hope that the racial divide will lessen.”
- “In an environment free of blame and shame, those in attendance deeply listened and honored the experience of others and that produced subtle but remarkable shifts in awareness of the pain experienced by people on both sides of the racial divide.”
- “When I got up and talked about my experience with racism it really helped. I had never talked about the situation with anyone, not even my family.”
- “The film was wonderful and I so respect the participants’ courage and honesty. I’ve received very positive feedback about both the film and your facilitation.”
- “The folks...talked about how important the screenings of the film were for them, and how that changed hearts in the way that traditional “training” could not. What a blessing.”
- “The way you got us focused on talking about racism in our country in today’s world rather than comments and questions on the events from the past was brilliant, for, after all, that is the point of what you are doing.”
- “I was particularly struck by how skillfully you helped create a safe space for people to speak. I also noticed how you keep conversation going, while still taking moments to insert your own observations from time to time, but without derailing the energy within the group.”
- “Leadership like yours gives people permission to be honest, to risk vulnerability, to venture less-than-perfect responses ...”