

Scholarship Essay

The Impact of English Studies on My Education

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As any English teacher or professor knows, knowledge and skill in the English Language and Literature are vital in a person's overall education. Ability and craft in writing are used everyday by all manner of business men and women in their correspondences, contracts, etc. They also are used in each academic subject, for all subjects require writing or explanations, even in math, in which you must have the skill of proving or justifying right answers with the right words. . . . The mastering of English writing is indeed vital for any position or career in life.

For me, the mastering of writing well and persuasively has been a rewarding obstacle course. Before the intense practice in writing timed essays and research reports in the tenth and eleventh grade, I found myself struggling with the right words and syntax in my writing. Now, with a background of good practice and confidence in my writing, I find myself quickly composing exceptional essays in the exact amount of time allotted for the prompt, or less. My grades in English have gone up along with my confidence.

With my practice in writing in English, I find myself getting more positive feedback in my other academic classes. For my history classes, where we wrote formulaic thesis papers, my teachers were impressed with my mastery of language and how well-formed and mature were my ideas and their development throughout my essays. This is the same with other classes in school that required any form of writing—including French.

Likewise, while writing and the English language had a huge impact of my education, knowledge of English Literature also helped me to become more cultured and open to new and somewhat different ideas. In my sophomore year, I started noticing how many references to literature

there were in movies, television, songs, everything; and I started noticing how I understood those now with my studies of famous novels. Besides understanding references, I started opening my eyes to new ideas, seeing these in a different light from what I was carefully taught as a conservative Roman Catholic. I am now more accepting and understanding of differences where I might otherwise not have been without the studying of these wonderful novels.

The books we cover in English class have led me to other books, and those led me to other books, so that now I am a reading fiend who treasures her bookcase lined with all the books she reads and re-reads. So my overall study and practice of English language and literature has made me a reading and writing fiend who possesses more self-confidence in school and has a more open and accepting view of the world. Thank you, English!