

Why I am an English Major

"I am not an English major because I like to read (though this is true) or because I possess no technical skills and thus must resign myself to teach 15 year olds about identifying main ideas. That attitude does not make good teachers or particularly satisfied people.

I am an English major because I recognize the importance of the written word. I recognize the societal and cultural importance of understanding and applying that which has been written before me to my modern world and I recognize the importance of contributing my words for the generations to come. I recognize the importance of understanding American identity and how it came to be what it is today. This is not nothing or “fluff” but rather is the core of societal existence. We must understand who we are and how we came to be before we can attempt to change or impact people. We have to know how to talk to people, how to write to people, how to analyze what they say and what we say. Human beings have an intrinsic need to understand their world, make their own conclusions, and share their findings. I have learned this as an English major. I have discovered the conviction and confidence to continually mold myself with new ideas and an ability to express myself as an intelligent, productive member of society. The world needs English majors not just to teach grammar, but to teach new generations to think with analytical conviction and to express worthwhile ideas. The world needs English majors not just to write, but in doing so to represent the goals and ideals of not only the inner artistic self, but also businesses, governments, religions, and generations with an understanding of beauty, morality, and interpersonal relationships.

I am an English major and I can do this, and in that I am satisfied. "

Heather Schmig

May 2015 UT Tyler Graduate

“The easy answer to why I'm an English major is that I love to read, but if you look at it closely it's that I love to delve into new worlds. English as a major is one that allows me to jump into many worlds I'd probably never try otherwise. I love seeing how an author uses the 26 letters to create something new and wholly theirs. One of my favorite things is to see how they make the characters develop.

As a child I loved puzzles and things like iSpy. I love finding hidden things. One of my favorite things about being an English major is finding those hidden gems in a novel or a story-- whether it's the meaning, the trick they do with the words, or figuring out the plot before they tell you. The hidden things are most often the best.

I love being an English major because I feel challenged, and I'm always learning new things. I've grown as a writer, creatively and analytically. Being an English major has helped me formulate thoughts in new and unique ways. I find myself looking at the world differently thanks to this major.

All in all I just love being in a major where I feel like I belong. I love the sense of community that English majors have and I think that's what has made the biggest impact on me. I can be myself and not have to worry about what people think. I just love everything about being an English major. It was the best decision I ever made. I feel like this major has prepared me for life in ways that other majors only attempt to do. Being an English major has helped me become the person I always wanted to be."

Aleya Wheeler

May 2015 UT Tyler Graduate

The question, "Why am I an English major?" can most succinctly be summed up by one little sentence.

Life is hard.

Life is hard when you are young; Life is hard when you are old; And life is most definitely hard when you are in college. When studying literature, you are able to live someone else's life. You are able to solve another character's problems. You are able to deeply analyze the importance of snow in a particular scene, or the death of your most beloved character. You look down at the words of a particular text, and you come alive in the stories. You travel around the world, and see beautiful scenes that you may never be able to actually see. You walk around Walden Pond with Thoreau, fall in love with Mr. Darcy, and travel the Mississippi River with Huck Finn.

So, why am I an English major? I'm an English major because life is hard. But because of the literature I have studied, when I graduate, I'll have more than a degree. I will have the ability to communicate effectively, solve problems efficiently, and love deeply; and that makes life a whole lot easier.

Katherine Lane

May 2015 UT Tyler Graduate

I'm not an English Major because I didn't know what to be. I'm not an English Major because I love to read, though this is true. I'm not an English Major because it is easy, which is not entirely the case. I'm not an English Major simply because it "sounded good."

I am an English Major because of the beauty that is within the core of its heart. I am an English Major because words hold a power that speaks to my heart. I am an English Major because there is a beauty within the world that I seek with words. I am an English Major because beauty is in the eye of the beholder and words are always in view. I am an English Major because there is a passion that drives the soul, drives the heart. I am an English Major because I want to spread the

heart to those who do not have it. Most importantly, I am an English Major because it makes me happy, and happiness is the first step towards beauty.

Jessica Villagran

May 2015 UT Tyler Graduate
