

Hi, I'm Emily Hamner, at the start of my presentation today I would like to share a quote from my all time favorite movie, The Little Mermaid, as it reflects my overall theme of this final exam project.

“You got your own style, now let it shine through and remember no matter what, you gotta be you.” -Sebastian

I chose this quote specifically because it was a good representation of my mindset while entering AP Literature and Composition in the fall of 2015, or 2016 according to our class shirts. This quote was also motivational for me while I was typing up various essays or response papers for this class. Back in middle school you were always told to include a “lead, 3 body paragraphs, and a conclusion” within your essays, but that isn't at ALL what you should do once you enter into higher level English classes. Without adding in **bold**, or *italics* in your writings, you won't really have a “voice” and incorporating your own style within your essays, is HUGE! I remember back in English IV last year, Mrs. Rutan would always say, add in voice within your papers so that you can stand out from everyone else. I never wanted to write the cliché “5 Paragraph Essay” while in AP Lit, so with bold and italics, I was able to include my own style, just as Sebastian said in The Little Mermaid.

Now reflecting back on my undersea adventure I've taken throughout the course of this year, has come to an end, I look back on my trip and realized I discovered many valuable treasures along the way. While on my AP adventure, I did homework, wrote papers, read plays, poems, and books, took vocabulary quizzes, watched movies, and talked in seminar circles. Although I learned a lot, I still have a lot more to learn, but I'll be a freshman at Ferris State in the fall so I'll read more, write more, and learn a lot more.

Looking back on all I have learned from my discoveries this year, three things I'll always remember from this class are:

- 1. How to write a solid essay.**
- 2. Even though it was AP, it was LIT.**
- 3. Seminar circles ARE helpful.**

One thing I feel that I gained from this class was certainly how to write a solid essay. As I said earlier, you didn't want to write the cliché 5 paragraph essay while in AP Lit. because you want to stray away from the “easy way out” and create your own style of writing. I quickly learned that once you enter AP, it's important to include more “WHY” rather than “HOW.” And by that I mean a response paper shouldn't be all summary of the novel/chapter, it should include maybe 15% summary and 85% why the author chose to include a thunderstorm after a character passes away, or why color is more than just color.

My best demonstration of including more why than how happened within the Sophocles unit, on my final response paper. My favorite line from this paper was:

“When George Lucas adapted the Star Wars series, **he wrote it with the knowledge that tragic heroes are easily relatable, therefore the audience would have a better connection and feel what the characters were feeling.**”

Another thing I gained, or for better word, learned while in AP Lit was even though it a college level, Advanced Placement class, it was indeed LIT. Now what I mean by this is, that the workload got heavy at times, but not all of the work we did was necessarily hard, boring projects like many would assume. For example, a lot of the projects we did in the class weren't all that formal, like our Personal Narratives and the Character Representation Projects. As my Personal Narrative was probably my favorite writing I've ever done because we had so much freedom with them. We got to pick essentially everything that was included. I wrote mine about getting a special surprise visit on my birthday from a few friends up north, and every time I read it, it takes me back to

“that **warm, sunny**, Saturday, August afternoon, I was laying on the smooth, *soft*, sand, listening to the cool breeze and the water of Lake Michigan crash against the shore.” “It was the day of my 17th birthday.”

The last thing I gained from AP & that I'd like to share with you all is that seminar circles are indeed helpful. They aren't something you typically do in a lot of other classes, although it was pretty much just a class discussion, I got to hear everyone else's thoughts/ things they noticed while reading. Sometimes I wouldn't have the same perspective while reading a poem as someone else, and it was really neat to see how everyone interpreted a given text.

After discovering an abundance of great treasures while down under the sea, I started to wonder where I will be next year with reading and writing? I know that I'll be taking English while at Ferris, so my main goal for college is to always write spectacular essays, by making sure to include more why than how within papers, as I now know how important that is.

And this concludes my reflection of AP Literature & Composition as a student, thank you for your time.