

## In defense of an English major

When I tell people I've chosen to pursue a degree in English I always get the same response, with some variety but the tone is always the same. Whether it's "How nice" or "what do you plan to do with that" people are confused and even condemnatory of it. What people fail to realize is that a degree in English can lead to an abundance of opportunity. I can admit that when I first declared my major the first job titles that came to mind were teacher, journalist, author and well that was it. I had no awareness of the many different jobs and projects English majors can assist on and contribute to.

When going about our lives we don't consider who wrote the ads, the descriptions for makeup and clothes, the scripts for tv and video games. Whether it's technical or creative writing, English majors are given opportunities to learn and polish their skills. The beauty of being an English major is that all of the reading, writing, and research gives us a multifaceted skill set. With the increasing prevalence of technology, English majors are starting to use their skills in new spaces like social media apps to help brands create an image and aesthetic with the language they use. Sure a brand could say their product is good but words like stunning, wondrous, and elegant elicit a far more intense reaction in the mind of a buyer and English majors can make sure you use the most appropriate ones for any task.

No matter the career, interacting with a wide array of people from different cultures and backgrounds and understanding their interests is a necessity and English majors are up for the task. As part of our coursework we are tasked with reading an assortment of literature whether it's Asian literature, African American literature, Hawaiian literature or otherwise we are taught to understand and interact with other cultures and peoples in an empathetic and positive manner. We understand that just as our perspective is important, so is the one of the person we are

communicating with. I am not just capable of analyzing literature, writing essays, and researching various topics, I am capable of it all.