

AP Speakers Bureau Recruitment Suggestions

Before you visit the high school, stop by the English office to pick up a packet that includes these guidelines, a student sign-up sheet, an appropriate number of bookmarks, and a WKU English travel mug as a gift for the teacher. If you have questions about mileage reimbursement, check with Tomi before you go. Consider taking an English major to assist with your classroom activity and spiel about our major.

After your classroom presentation, budget 5-10 minutes to introduce students to the department, our programs, and the virtues of an English major.

1. Pass around the signf up sheet and ask students to share their email addresses, mailing addresses, and cell numbers so that we can send/text them additional information about our department. Students aren't required to share this information and some schools may have a policy against providing it, so no worries if you face resistance.
2. Distribute department bookmarks and point out the web address and QR code (scannable bar code) that will take them to our web site. If you have business cards, dole those out, too (Mary will order cards if you need them).
3. If time and technology allow, visit www.wku.edu/english and show the video (6:40). If time and technology aren't available, encourage students to watch the video, read about our major, learn about career opportunities in English, and like us on Facebook. Alternatively, you could ask the teacher to show or require students to view the video before you visit.
4. Mention that our majors have a range of options to study creative writing, linguistics, literature, professional writing, and teaching English. Give them a very brief overview of each concentration/major.
5. Emphasize that an English major helps students learn to read, write, and think well and that these skills will benefit students no matter what career they choose. Our students have become successful teachers, novelists, lawyers, technical writers, college professors, university administrators, filmmakers, screenwriters, editors, graphic designers, business people, and even professional comedians. They can learn more about what our graduates have done on our alumni web page.
6. Give students an opportunity to ask questions about the department or English major—some may have questions you can't answer, which can be a good thing. Record the question and name, give it to the dept. head on your return, and s/he will reply to the student—this is another opportunity for us interact with a prospective student.
7. Encourage students to contact you or the dept. head with additional questions.
8. Please remember to collect the signf up sheet after the presentation, and give it to a student worker when you return to campus.