

Why Study English? Senior Adrianna Waters Shares Why English Matters to Her

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Arianna Waters is a senior Professional Writing major with a minor in Creative Writing from Florence, KY.

Why did you choose WKU?

Both of my older brothers went to WKU, so I always knew Western since I was ten. I was super familiar with the campus and I knew I wanted to study English pretty early. I just really liked the campus and what they had to offer.

What made you want to be an English major?

I would say that I probably knew for a long time that I wanted to go into the English program because I loved reading growing up. I loved reading, I loved writing, and I loved storytelling.

Did anyone ever try to persuade you to choose something other than English? If so, what did you say?

My parents and my brothers are super supportive. I never got any doubts from them, which I am very fortunate since I know a lot of people don't have that kind of support. There are some people who assume

it's either teaching or nothing, and it's annoying but I wouldn't say it pushes me away from it at all.

Why is the study of English important to you?

I think it's important because it emphasizes communication and storytelling, which to me are two of the most important skills you need in general. There are so many different factors of English [that you learn]. It's not just learning how to write a document or an email, because those are important too, but all of the writing and reading you do add up. You're adding different forms of communication to your knowledge base, and instinctively that comes into play whenever you start writing yourself.

What has been your greatest learning experience in the WKU English Department?

My first year at college I had really bad imposter syndrome, to the point where I wasn't really involved that much, so my biggest learning moment came when Dr. Langdon asked me if I wanted to be her TA the following semester. That really gave me a lot of confidence, not just the fact that she thought I was worthy of it, but the fact that I said yes and did it. It was a huge learning experience because I was constantly doing things outside of my comfort zone. To this day I credit that TA position for me being as involved as I am now and for me having as many opportunities as I do.

What is the best way to make the most out of the WKU English program?

Getting involved-- 100%. There's a lot of learning to be done in the classroom, but the best way to enhance that learning is to understand how you can bring that learning to the workplace after college. It's sometimes hard to tell just on class experience what you want to do after graduation, but it's a lot easier to know and gain the skills you need by getting involved. If you get involved with

something and it's not your cup of tea it's okay to let that go—I've had to let go of several things for that reason, but I've also discovered so many different avenues because I got involved.

What are your plans after graduation?

I have a lot of different paths I'm interested in pursuing, so my idea is if I find anything I've had an interest in for the past year I'm going to apply for if there is an open position. My big dream to reach eventually is to work with children's media, but it's a really competitive field so other things that I'm interested in are theatre administration work, general editing and writing, or teaching and tutoring.

What advice would you offer to someone who is deciding on declaring an English major?

Don't get discouraged by what you read, hear, or see. The opportunities for English majors are everywhere. We don't just read books (though we do plenty of that too). We learn how to write, how to communicate, and how to emphasize. Anywhere you look, you can find a way to use your English major skills. All it takes is hard work and a little creativity.