

CREATIVE WRITING AND ENGLISH DEGREES

THE VALUE

Nicholas Sherrod wrote: “With the rise of STEM programs and people pouring admiration and money into those sorts of studies, it is easy to dismiss the value of a liberal arts education” (Sherrod, 2015). The real-world experiences and skills of English majors show this to be true.

FAMOUS EXAMPLES

A list of successful persons:

- Television Host **Conan O’Brien**: English and History Degree from Harvard University.
- Nobel Laureate in medicine **Harold Varmus**: Masters in English from Harvard University, went on to achieve Masters in Medicine at Columbia.
- Journalist from *The Washington Post* **Bob Woodward**: English Degree from Yale University, reported the Richard Nixon Watergate scandal.
- Former New York Governor **Mario Cuomo**: English Undergraduate Degree from St. John’s University, went on to graduate top of his law school class, once again at St. John’s.
- Creator of the hit talk show “The View” **Barbra Walters**: English Degree from Sarah Lawrence College. In 2000, it was announced that she was the highest paid news reporter of all time.
- Supreme Court Judge **Clarence Thomas**: English Degree from Holy Cross College.
- Legendary film producer **Steven Spielberg**: English Major at California State University, Long Beach. Started his career as an unpaid intern at Universal Studios. The rest is history.
- Former President of Yale and Former Commissioner of the Major League Baseball **Angelo Bartlett Giamatti**: English Degree from Yale.
- Former CEO of Disney **Michael Eisner**: English and Theatre Degree from Denison University. Was CEO for over twenty years and encourages youth to study English.

(Giang, Guey, and Nisen, 2013)

The list speaks for itself. English Degrees produce success not by coincidence or luck, but because of the skills the degrees teach.

WHY CREATIVE WRITING AND ENGLISH, WHY BGSU

Michael Melia says that “The number of schools offering bachelor's degrees in creative writing has risen from three in 1975 to 733 today” (Melia, 2017). This spike is still in effect: in 2008, there were only 161. Why are so many colleges adding Creative Writing Degrees?

The skills acquired in an English Degree or Creative Writing Degree make students better in all fields. Students of English are better learners because of their critical reading skills, their polished written and oral communication skills, and their ability to think outside their own perspectives.



Bowling Green State University Creative Writing Students converse with Hyland Software at the Spring Semester Career Fair.

BGSU's Creative Writing program is one the oldest in the country and offers fascinating courses taught by experienced professors. The skills students gain with a BFA in Creative Writing or English are skills sought out by marketers, advertisers, and especially the world of technology and media. BGSU's English Department offers a wide range of courses that give you exactly that.

References:

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- Melia, M. (2017, April 7). Demand booming on college campuses for creative writing. Retrieved May 3, 2017, from <https://apnews.com/286ad20c060f4e57b545d1dcd5793c44/Demand-booming-on-college-campuses-for-creative-writing>