

Abigail Leavitt

12th Grade

Jerome High School

Starting at a young age, my parents would often find me vivaciously reading under the covers at 12:30 AM because I *needed* to get to the end of a plot twist. At school, I would check out as many books as I possibly could, and, when asked to write an essay, I'd write six pages instead of three, 15 instead of 10. I have always loved words, spanning from a long, complex string of letters that make little sense, like funambulism, to short, concise words that are to the point. Every time I pick up a book or read an essay, it amazes me to see the passion that a simple sentence can emit. So, it seems only natural that I intend to study English education and teach rising generations about my passion for words. And, not only that, but being able to pass on the beauty of writing to my students.

Teaching has always been a dream of mine because of teachers I have had that quickly became a safe place for me to confide in. I hope to be like my favorite teachers by instituting a policy of kindness, respect and trust. I want my classroom to be open and a place where learning about a subject that many people struggle with becomes important and meaningful. Moreover, I want the content of learning to be more important than any letter grade. In our current education system, too much focus is being put on passing with a certain grade. I want to be part of the

solution that changes this narrative and puts less pressure on the letter grade and more emphasis on the quality of teaching.

Many times, when people hear that I'm going to study English, they tend to raise their eyebrows and shake their heads, thinking about how inapplicable it can be. But, I disagree with their doubting words. To me, being educated about something that I love and finally being able to study it further is of more worth to me than a degree that I hate. I am driven by the desire to learn, to understand, to read complex works of art and understand them, and to be more informed about the world I live in.

I have always loved words and I don't expect this love to change anytime soon. I am excited to continue my education on a higher level and delve deeper into a subject I feel I have only skimmed the surface of in school. I want to take this love and passion that I have and be able to share it with students who have traditionally struggled with English classes. To achieve my goals, I am actively learning to find out what I need to do to make them happen. Education is immensely important to me and I feel I have a great amount to learn in this vast world we live in.