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Benefit of the Study of English

The main vehicle by which reading and writing of literature has progressed my intellect is through the process of analysis and criticism. This discipline has enabled me to receive information, (not only through literature and analyses, but also, by extension through all media sources), analyze the information, revise, modify and amend the information as needed and, in doing so, come to a conclusion about the author or professor's stance as related to my own morals, beliefs, value system, and interpretation.

One extraordinary discovery that advanced my understanding of literature was the idea that, despite my innocence of it, I viewed all literature through my own personal perspective and critical theory, which remained hidden until specifically pointed out to me. That is, despite my naiveté of the process, I engaged text through a lens of my own perceptions and values without acknowledging them. Being unaware of my own ingrained theoretical stances precluded me from trying on other perceptions, thereby limiting my understanding of the material to my own narrow viewpoint. Learning that I had a distinct view, and then, learning to try out other views, enabled me to understand literature through multifarious meanings that opened new worlds to me.

The true extension of my thought processes came when I generalized this new process to other information, outside of literature. I now had a system by which I could analyze others positions, assumptions, information, and then draw more educated, solid conclusions. I found that all perceptions, including my own, are completely subjective and colored by issues of which we may not be aware. Therefore, the more perceptions that we learn and try out, the greater our chances at academic, social and professional success, and the broader and more firm our intellectual processes become.

I found, through the study of English, that the more ways that I have of looking at the world at my disposal, the more clear the world, in all of its overt and covert manifestations, becomes. This has been an invaluable experience and process in me, and one that I greatly treasure.