

Naba Wahid

9th Grade

Williamson County Schools

Brentwood High School

The buzzing of students bustling through the halls rang in my ears as I took my first steps into the high-school world. As I examined my surroundings in my first class I found: hardened gum plastered under the desks, graffiti scribbled on the desk tops, and a student peacefully slumbering away next to me. As I took these observations in, one question rang through my mind; what was I doing here?

Like many other students, I began to lose some interest and excitement about the school experience after graduating from middle school. Gradually, I lost my thirst for getting up early in the morning to go to a place filled with a blend of hyperactive and inactive students. I started to ask myself what the point of it all was and if I would ever even use the knowledge I gained in school ever again in my life.

But now, I am proud to say that I can use the skills I gained in English, in my life. Take for instance, my new found interest in debate. To be a successful debater one must be able to write a case that has substance and structure. Our debate captains compared writing a case to writing a research paper. This analogy truly resonated with me and I was able to take the structural format of a research paper and use it to organize my debate case. I was able to apply what I learned about writing a research paper and gathering information and sources to successfully stitching together an effective case for my debate.

I was also able to apply my English skills in other classes. For instance, in my Human Geography class we are required to answer a "Free Response Question" with every test. Our answers to these questions must be well articulated and thought-out as well as grammatically correct. Through my experience with writing prompts in English and learning about correct grammar I was able to efficiently write out a Free Response Question for my first Human Geography test.

I truly believe now that the skills I learn in school and especially English will benefit me in my life. English skills help me articulate my thoughts and eloquently communicate my ideas. They help me piece together my notions and express them. English helps me express. English helps me evolve. English helped me discover my greatest passion; writing.