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Statement of Research Interests

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Dr. Rybas/Senior Seminar

What I know: As an English major, I obviously know quite a bit about the world of “English”. Being a professional and creative writing major, I have had experience dealing with many concepts involving not just “English”, but in areas including English and other languages. I have always been highly into the grammar side of the English language, but there is so much more than just reading, writing, spelling, etc. Being primarily focused on the “professional writing” side of my major, I have been in situations and jobs were I have had to move past the typical standards that English majors seem to be held to. I am interested in many different things in life, all of which can be somehow related to my English major.

Some of the subjects that are of greatest importance to me are: volleyball, festival pageants, choir , singing, gay rights, Track and Field, scrapbooking , fundraising, texting , photography, pop culture , Facebook, social media in general, anything related to the arts, and obviously English related subjects. I spend a great deal of my time outside of classes and school work primarily in the area of sports and public relations. I hold five different jobs within the athletic department here at Capital, mainly with the volleyball and track teams, and working as an administrative assistant for athletics. These three jobs in particular have prepared me for my future in many aspects. Not only are these my “jobs”, but they have also become a huge learning experience for me. Spending four years with the volleyball program, I have come close to mastering many areas that I feel are going to be of great importance to me in my future endeavors. I have learned how to keep data and files for all sorts of information, I have learned interpersonal skills as well as social skills with a wide range of individuals. I have put my knowledge learned in my classes at Capital into effect on a daily basis. I get the chance to do many of the things I love, while getting paid to do it. Same goes for working with the track team and being an administrative assistant in the athletics office. I never considered these jobs to be so worthwhile when I first started them. But thinking about it now, I realize that holding these jobs and seeing the effects they are having on me is helping me realize just exactly where I want to go with my life.

What I want to know: I want to know why? I want to understand why things happen the way that they do. Why people act how they act in certain situations. I am constantly trying to analyze and understand the meanings behind everything. Whether I am trying to figure out the answer to a question on study guide, or I am trying to figure out why someone is not texting me back, I am always thinking and questioning the events that happen to me on a daily basis. Considering that I know in 3 months I will graduate from Capital with two English degrees, I want to try to figure out how I will KNOW what to do come May 4th. There are so many things that I could talk about and discuss and research for my senior thesis. I am still questioning what exactly would be the perfect topic for me to do, that will not only get me an A in the class, but will also help me in my future. Would I want to do something related to my jobs in the sports department? Could I do a project on the struggles of a student athlete? Or do I want to look a bit deeper into my past, back to when I was in high school and juggling being a student, and athlete, and a festival pageant queen? I would like to bring a better light to the idea of pageant queens, and show people that the world of pageantry is not just about being “beautiful” and “perfect”. I think I could change some opinions about this lifestyle. I could tie this topic all in to the notion that just because you are beautiful does not mean that you are going to get everything you want out of life, and that being ugly does not mean that you will struggle your entire life. Although right now this concept does not seem to have much direction, I think that with more thinking and contemplating about this subject would bring me to a thesis that I could easily create an outstanding report on. And, considering that I have a lot of personal knowledge on the subject, and this is a subject that is very close to my heart, I would be able to write truthfully and with an pretty un-biased opinion. In theory, I want to know why it is that people who have no knowledge about the world of pageantry are so quick to judge those who do pageants, especially when pageants are a great way to build strong, independent and successful women.

What I stand for: I believe that everyone deserves respect. I believe that we all have a fair chance to achieve what we want out of life. I believe in true love, and happily ever after, and all the things that a typical Disney movie tries to teach us. I also believe that what goes around, comes around and the idea that karma, is indeed, a bitch (excuse my language). I believe that one can never quit learning, and that it is never too late to change one’s opinion and to make a difference in someone’s life. I guess in the grand scheme of things, I stand for the fact that we are only human. We are bound to make mistakes, and make many of them. We are guaranteed to have moments of happiness, sadness, angry, pain, truth, lies, and every other emotion possible. I believe in the concept that Foucault portrays in his talks about the panopticon. I feel that life is one huge panopticon. I could relate that theory to the subject of sports, and even with pageants. So maybe, I want to do my project on the concept of pageant life and relate it to the panopticon.