Student Comments

Approaches to Literature

On the first day of class, students wrote a short response, answering the following questions: What are your prior experiences in literature courses? What helps you learn? What are your learning goals for this course?

On the last day of class, students reread their first-day writing answers and responded, answering the following questions: Did you meet your goals? What helped you learn? Did you add to your experience in a literature course?

Here are a few…

“Originally, when I first entered this class, I intended to acquire the knowledge and strategies to better approach and understand literature. Now that the course is over, I would say that I have achieved my goals and then some. I don’t know if you remember, but I asked you before if you considered literature as a form of art and you said that you did; I believe through your teaching I have also come to view literature in this way too. As a result, I have developed a newfound joy and appreciation for literature as a whole.”

“I learned how to research better, read articles and books more carefully, and word my thoughts more concisely.”

“My goal for the course was to improve my writing skills as a whole. I definitely think I improved my writing, although I still struggle with grammar. I believe that I improved in my ability to create topic sentences. Also my ability to summarize and analyze improved because of the homework. This class added to my experience in summarizing and analyzing poems. I never wrote an essay about poetry before so that was something new to me.”

“This course added to my experience in a literature course because of the interesting short stories and poems we read. The presentations and in-class discussions helped me learn. My learning goals were achieved because I learned how to better analyze poetry as well as literature in general.”

“Throughout all of my English courses I have always struggled with writing a good paper and reading a good book. Because of this course I do enjoy reading a bit more than I used to because of the interesting short stories/poems we have read. Although I still do not enjoy writing or think I am very good at it, I do believe I have learned some very important key skills to have for any paper. I have become slightly more confident in my work but know I still have a lot more room for improvement.”

“I have come a long way in literature. I have learned how to better my critical thinking and analyze a text. The discussion-based classes have helped significantly for understanding the material and getting opposing viewpoints. That being said, I have met my goals that I set for myself in my first-day writing response. This course was also very organized with sections such as short story, poetry, and drama in that order.”

“I definitely think I met the goals I had set for the class this semester. One of my goals was to improve my writing and over the course I feel my writing ability has increased. The other goal I had set for this class was to learn more about drama and plays which I was able to do. With some of the readings throughout the semester we were able to see them in video form which

helped with grasping the topic better. Adding to my experience I have more knowledge of poetry and how to interpret readings.”

“You have taught me plenty from grammar and proper punctuation to how to write proper papers with a good thesis, clear title, MLA citations, and complete topic sentences. My goal going into this course was to become a better reader and writer and both have definitely improved in my opinion.”