

The Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction defines one of the four foundational learning standards for youth as the ability to “read with comprehension, write effectively, and communicate successfully in a variety of ways and settings and with a variety of audiences.” As an English Language Arts teacher, it will be my responsibility to ensure students meet these standards. This means I must exceed these standards myself, and be able to communicate the expectations of the standards to youth. My undergraduate education at The Evergreen State College provided me with a myriad of ways to approach and communicate about texts and authors from across cultures, time periods, identities, and writing and reading comprehension ability.

I gained a breadth of knowledge and experience working with texts from a variety of literary traditions through my undergraduate coursework. Much of my focus was on literature by marginalized authors. These texts ranged from classics like Orwell’s *Animal Farm*, popular young adult novels like Adeyemi’s *Children of Blood and Bone*, and picture books like Campbell’s *A Day with Yahya*. My familiarity with a diverse range of texts makes me comfortable analyzing, discussing, and teaching a wide variety of works in a classroom setting.

I am practiced in applying multiple strategies to navigate all stages of the writing process in both analytical and creative writing. Most of the writing in my undergraduate studies consisted of annotations, quick writes, analyses, and essays; the spaces between were filled with scripts, summaries, and poetry. All of my writing as an undergraduate student culminated in a capstone project: a 15-page essay researched and written within a 10-week program. Additionally, my time in the *Cultivating Voice* program gave me concrete strategies for tutoring writers, which is an essential skill for working with students in language-centered classes.

Writing is not my only form of self-expression. I explored many mediums of communication during my time at The Evergreen State College, including public speaking, animation, cinematography, and puppetry. This experience taught me strategies to share ideas with a wide variety of audiences, including youth. In today’s schools, creative visual communication and multimedia skills are essential for teachers, and I am confident in my ability to apply them in a classroom setting.

The coursework I completed at The Evergreen State College equipped me with the tools I need to effectively teach English Language Arts at a middle and high school level. My familiarity with a variety of texts has prepared me to encourage students’ analysis of literature across genres, and my extensive writing experience as an undergraduate student made me an effective communicator who is ready to support budding writers. Admission to The Evergreen State College Master’s in Teaching program will be an opportunity to expand upon and apply my knowledge to support youth in meeting the foundational learning standards they need for success.