

Aniya Cook

MIT Program- Endorsement Essay

Fall 2024

I learned how to conduct research to write a historical fiction narrative in the program, *A Place in The Past*. The ‘history’ part of historical fiction requires having knowledge on the historical event or figure of your choosing and then demonstrating that as accurately as possible in your writing. Creative writing is incorporated when you insert fictional characters or places without manipulating any historical elements you may have included for your narrative.

In my 16-credit *Literary Arts and Studies Capstone* program, I learned how to analyze poetry, read the work of dramatists, and explore the meaning of multicultural texts. For my poetry analysis assignment; I checked out the works of Derek Walcott, Emily Dickinson, and Edgar Allan Poe. For these three poets; I read a few works written by them, chose one from each, and wrote a thorough analysis of their work. I focused on what was not being directly said, which meant that I had to think critically to make logical connections by looking at the author’s perspective of their work. I paid attention to the language- did it use metaphors, was personification being used, etc. Doing this assignment helped me become more in-touch with poetry, broadened my understanding of how poetry can be an art, and improved my critical writing skills.

I chose to read *Henry VI* which is a three-part playwright written by Shakespeare. I read the entire trilogy and watched videos on the play, checked out a book from the Evergreen Library that talked about his life as a poet and playwright, so I could find out what inspired him to become a writer since *Henry VI* is one of his earliest plays. Looking at the text and writing a

breakdown of the trilogy contributed to my understanding of how the English language progressed.

For the creative writing assignment, I learned to organize my ideas in the sequence that I want them to follow in for my narrative. I also learned that writing skills are not something someone is born with. You develop these skills by writing, whether it be jotting down notes for an assignment or creating a grocery list. Writing is a way to communicate your thoughts and ideas. There is no wrong way of doing it. As my professor once said, “there is no such thing as bad writing. It can only improve from good, better, to best.” This is something that I want to pass down and teach others that doubt their writing abilities.

The endorsements that I have not yet completed are in British literature, world literature, non-fiction, and adolescent literature. I am currently enrolled in a 16-credit program called Forward Freedom Formation: The U.S. Civil War in American Memory, which checks off the American literature endorsement that I would need. My plan to complete the rest of the endorsements would be to build two individual learning contracts (ILC). In the winter, I would start another ILC for the British, world, and adolescent literature endorsement. I plan to start my ILC in the spring for my communication and nonfiction endorsement.