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Liberal Arts

A liberal arts education is the “academic course of instruction at a college intended to provide general knowledge comprising of the arts, humanities, natural sciences, and social sciences, as opposed to professional or technical subjects (dictionary.com).” These studies are intended to provide general knowledge and intellectual skills. Between Anderson University and Manchester College, I feel that I have taken enough Liberal Arts classes for two people. Some of the classes I have taken were helpful like Race, Ethnic, and Gender Group Relations and Experiencing the Arts but classes like Intro. to the Bible and LART were controversial. We all have different beliefs and values and Liberal Arts opens people up to diversity.

Art is everywhere and can be used with any subject and Experiencing the Arts helped confirmed that. This class viewed all mediums of art, such as paintings, music, and dance just to name a few. You can pick one of these and use it for 2 or 3 subject areas. For example, say you are studying the Gothic Era. History could be used here by looking up the period and finding facts such as dates, artists, and movements going on at this time. English or writing can be used by having the students choose an artist and write a biography on that artist. These are just a few ideas, but Liberal Arts are not just about classes that deal with art.

Race, ethnic, and gender groups was a very interesting class to take. The class could be frustrating at times but you find out a lot of truths and useful information. One thing I thought was really useful was the correct terms to call different races. For example, the correct term for Mexicans is Hispanics and Indians prefer the term Native Americans. This class also discusses the difference between men and women and whites and non-whites when it comes to pay, jobs,

housing, and etc. Not all classes were that helpful because they were either too controversial or the teacher did not teach.

LART was the first Liberal Arts class that I took at Anderson University. It was the worst class ever to experience as a freshman. I had it twice a week for 3 hours and I got nothing out of the class. The teacher I had was mono-toned, hard to understand because of his accent, and gave us one 5 minute break. We read difficult literature excerpts and talked mostly about the Roman era. The teacher did not explain what the excerpts meant and expected us to figure them out. Test time would come and the class still would not have a clue about what we read. Reading literature is not an easy task and that was mostly what we did in that class with mostly no explanations.

Even though some classes were not helpful, others were just controversial like Intro. to the Bible. This is a good class to take because you learn about the Bible but not everyone has the same beliefs. Since a student chose Anderson, which is a private church school, you think they would have the same Christian beliefs. There were students in my class who did not believe in God, disliked Catholics/Mormons/Lutherans/Baptists, or did not believe in the after life. The biggest issue would be how man and earth was created. Everyday there was a disagreement.

Dealing with issues everyday in this class prepared me for what I may see in the future and how open minded I need to be about other's beliefs once I start teaching. We all have different beliefs and values, which we as teachers should respect them all even if you do not agree. Liberal Arts open people up to diversity in the U.S. and other countries. It is a good idea to take at least two of these types of classes while in college. It would be a shame to miss out on these type of learning experiences, especially one that will benefit you in the future like in my case a foreign language.

Taking a foreign language class is a good idea for all future teachers. I took French but I wish I would have taken Spanish instead. The Hispanic population is increasing and I plan on teaching in a diverse area in the future. I plan on taking a Spanish class because I want to be able to communicate with all my students and parents. By knowing Spanish, I feel I can build a better relationship with my English and Spanish speaking students.

Liberal Arts are important because they provide general knowledge and intellectual skills in courses outside the usual subjects such as English, math, science, and history. These classes also open our eyes to diversity. Because some classes are more helpful than others, teachers should take in consideration what to teach and what not to teach within these courses. Students should also choose wisely in picking these courses unless the class is a requirement by the school.