

# English: A One-Way Ticket to A Career In Theater

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## The Problem

It's three weeks until graduation, and Cathy has a severe case of senioritis. She can feel it in her joints—an aching in her bones—a softness in her muscles. She slowly makes her way down each step in the stairwell as memories of carpal tunnel settle like jelly in her mind. Cathy is depressed. She has spent the last seven semesters enrolling in mostly electives and extracurricular activities. She entered college without a clue about what she wanted to do with her life, so she wastes her time in zero credit classes and picks the major of a cop-out. Cathy is an English major. She has listened to the cynicism and grief her academic guardians have aggressively bestowed upon her for the last four years. She watches her friends get closer to graduation with envy as she sees their confidence in their abilities and the career path that they have chosen. Cathy regrets choosing her major because she feels that it will not allow her to find a job anywhere, except at Wal-Mart or McDonalds. She doesn't see the value in her major and doesn't feel that she has developed any skills that will help her in the work-place.

## An Expert's Opinion

What Cathy doesn't understand is that college is only successful if you have a plan and you study what interests you. That doesn't mean you only take ballroom 101 and musical history of the Beatles. Pick a major that you can see yourself profiting from in your future career, one that you enjoy doing. Additionally, Cathy has completely misunderstood the value of a degree in English. Lisë Gorman, an English Professor at the University of Texas at San Antonio, stated, "I like helping kids overcome their fears of success." The way for that to happen is when, "they know how to speak respectfully and fluently. Children of this generation are losing the ability to have professional interaction with each other due to media."

One of the skills that English majors develop is their ability to communicate effectively and clearly. When they can do that, then they can have a better chance at being successful in their job, no matter what job they hold because every career calls for clear communication. What is one solution that Gorman suggests? "One way for this issue to be overcome is to get kids to read more and

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