

The Impact of HSLDA Online Academy

My journey with HSLDA Online Academy began when I was thirteen years old. My parents had inquired to see if my two siblings and I would be interested in enrolling in an online English course. I had never taken an online course, but I was intrigued. The summer before the class had even started, I had read the entire reading list; during this time, I was introduced to authors and books that I am passionate about to this day. By the end of the nine-month span of the class, I was a changed reader, writer, and student. Although I had adored reading for years, in that English 1 class I learned how to truly dissect writing, be it poetry or prose. I received an education on literary terms and writing styles in an engaging, interactive way. The instruction was effective enough that at thirteen years old I was able to comfortably debate and analyze classical literature with adults.

However, most impactful was how that class shaped the writer that I am today. My wonderful English 1 teacher was an incredible writer; with the students, she was direct with her criticism and enthusiastic with her praise. She molded me into someone who could write with confidence in any area, whether it was academic or recreational. Years after honing my skills as a writer under her tutelage, writing has become an intrinsic, impactful part of my life. In 2019, I won the regional Gold Key and the national Silver Medal for poetry in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards competition. My short stories and essays have also won awards and been featured in various publications. Last year, after completing a heavily essay-based application, I was selected by Senator Richard Burr to serve in the prestigious United States Senate Page Program. I know wholeheartedly that I would not have been able to achieve such accomplishments without my time in English 1.

Over the years, I have taken five HSLDA Online Academy English courses, including grammar and AP English classes. The Academy's values on education have remained consistent with my family's and the classes have become an integrated part of the fiber of my homeschool education. The treasure of having multiple, knowledgeable eyes on my writing throughout the years has irrevocably impacted my skills as a writer and I am forever grateful to HSLDA Online Academy.