

Lydia Anvar

Class of 2018

Professional Writing

By Collin Massie

“The only just literary critic is Christ, who admires more than does any man the gifts He Himself has bestowed.”

– J. R. R. Tolkien



Lydia Anvar is someone who will eagerly tell you all of the benefits that come out of interning. She participated in two different internships while at WKU, each which has helped her in different ways: The first was an internship with The Society for Values in Higher Education (SVHE) in the fall of 2016 and the second is a TA position, alongside Dr. Langdon in ENG 299 (Intro to English Studies), during the spring 2018 semester.

The SVHE is an organization that focuses its energy on the ethical issues that surround higher education, as well as the broader society in general. Lydia’s internship with them largely revolved around researching grant opportunities and discovering new methods to build their social media audience. She also partook in cataloguing and organizing library materials. Considering the fact that the SVHE is a nonprofit organization, the elements involved with her internship allowed for more creative freedom than perhaps another type of organization. Seeing the importance of creativity and then putting that creativity into action was, she said, one of the most important aspects of her time there.

As mentioned, the focus on audience was another major role in her internship experience. She says, “I remember trying different strategies in order to engage with our following on social media.” Working through those strategies helped prepare her for audience consideration down the road, as social media only becomes more important as an advertising tool.

The second internship as Dr. Langdon’s TA, strangely enough, provided her with not only teaching experience but reinforced similar tools that she refined at SVHE. She says,

“My internship as a TA, in a way, has taught me [the importance of creativity] as well. Dr. Langdon has shown me that in order to effectively teach students a certain concept, teachers need to be flexible and cater to the students’ specific needs.”

Though each internship supported, in different ways, certain overall skills, the experiences and expectations were two different ballgames. As opposed to the first internship, Lydia says, “Teaching is so intimidating! I was really nervous my first day leading discussion in my 299 class, but Dr. Langdon was incredibly encouraging. And the more I helped facilitate discussion, the more comfortable I became with it.”

She says that her experience as a TA only reaffirmed her desire to become a teacher. As she prepares for graduate school at UK to get her Master’s in Education, she expressed a great sense of thankfulness for what she learned from both of her internships. And to other students, she enthusiastically advises, “Intern intern intern! Even if there aren’t any internships that necessarily ‘jump out’ to you, I would still encourage you to apply. Stretch yourself as a student and get out of your comfort zone a bit. That’s what internships are for!”

To read more internship profiles, go to wku.edu/english/internships