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Transforming Yourself Through English

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Transforming Yourself Through English

Travis Bonwell, Joscelyn Bradbury, Christina Hudson, and Jenna Sotin.

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Abstract

The purpose of this project is redesigning Patterson Hall's English and Philosophy billboard to inspire students to join the department. English and Philosophy are important, interdisciplinary skills that can transcend into various careers. By creating a thought-provoking billboard, we hope to inspire current and future undergraduates to choose an English or Philosophy Major.

One of the biggest obstacles these programs face is overcoming the preconceived notions surrounding them. By informing students of the countless interdisciplinary skills these programs teach, as well as detailing alumni/famous figures who do not immediately induce thoughts of English or philosophy, we can pull students from a wider background as they see how these skills will help fulfil their dreams.

Our group went about this process by first interviewing several professors within the EWU English and Philosophy departments, as well as a few outside sources. Through these interviews, we gathered various perspectives and thoughts in which we were able to incorporate into our billboard design. One of the reoccurring themes we obtained through these interviews is to transform or find yourself on the page.

We will feature photographs, portraits and quotes, while also creating a large open "book" in the center of the "billboard" which contains the information we want to share. This is an example of the visual rhetoric we will be implementing to connect to English and Philosophy. The billboard will be focused on what the student wants out of their future and how English and Philosophy can help them to reach that goal. The aim is to bring the focus back on the student as the board catches their eye, and hopefully helps them to reexamine themselves before declaring an English or Philosophy major.

English and Philosophy Careers

Surveys conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau have shown that employment of English and philosophy degree holders varies greatly. While many people may imagine most English/philosophy majors go into education, Figure 1 shows that Educational instruction and library occupations make up only a small percentage of overall employment.

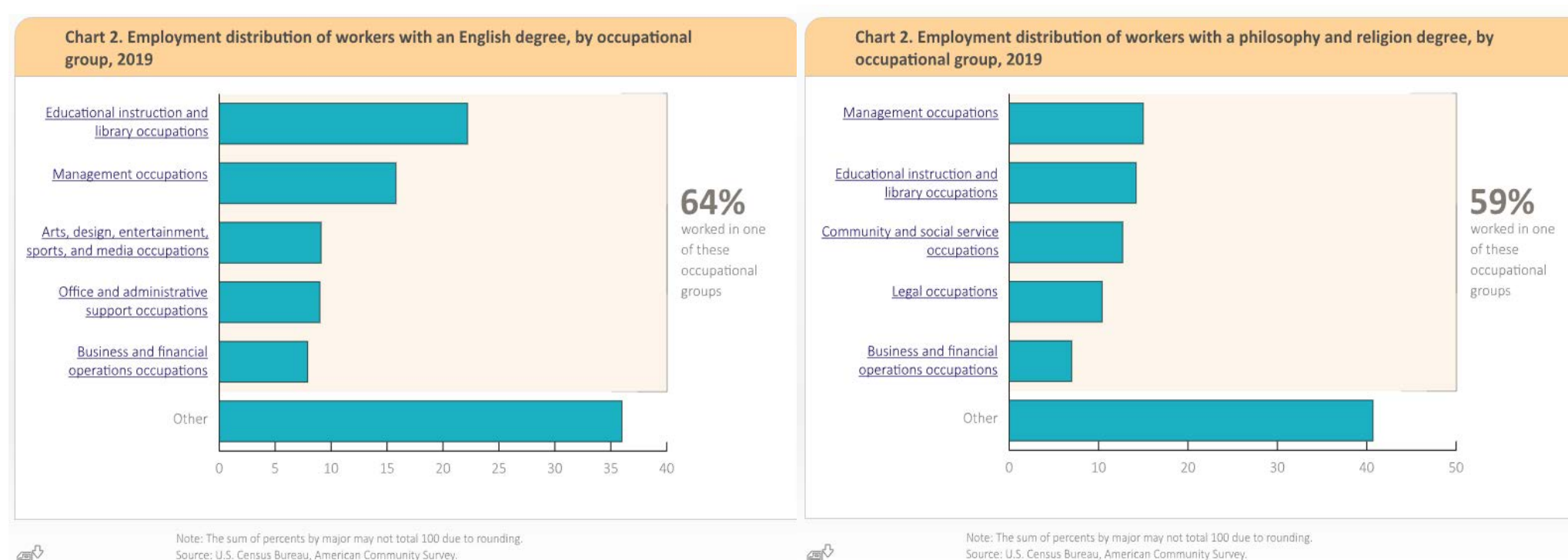


Figure 1: Graphs with various occupations from English and philosophy graduates

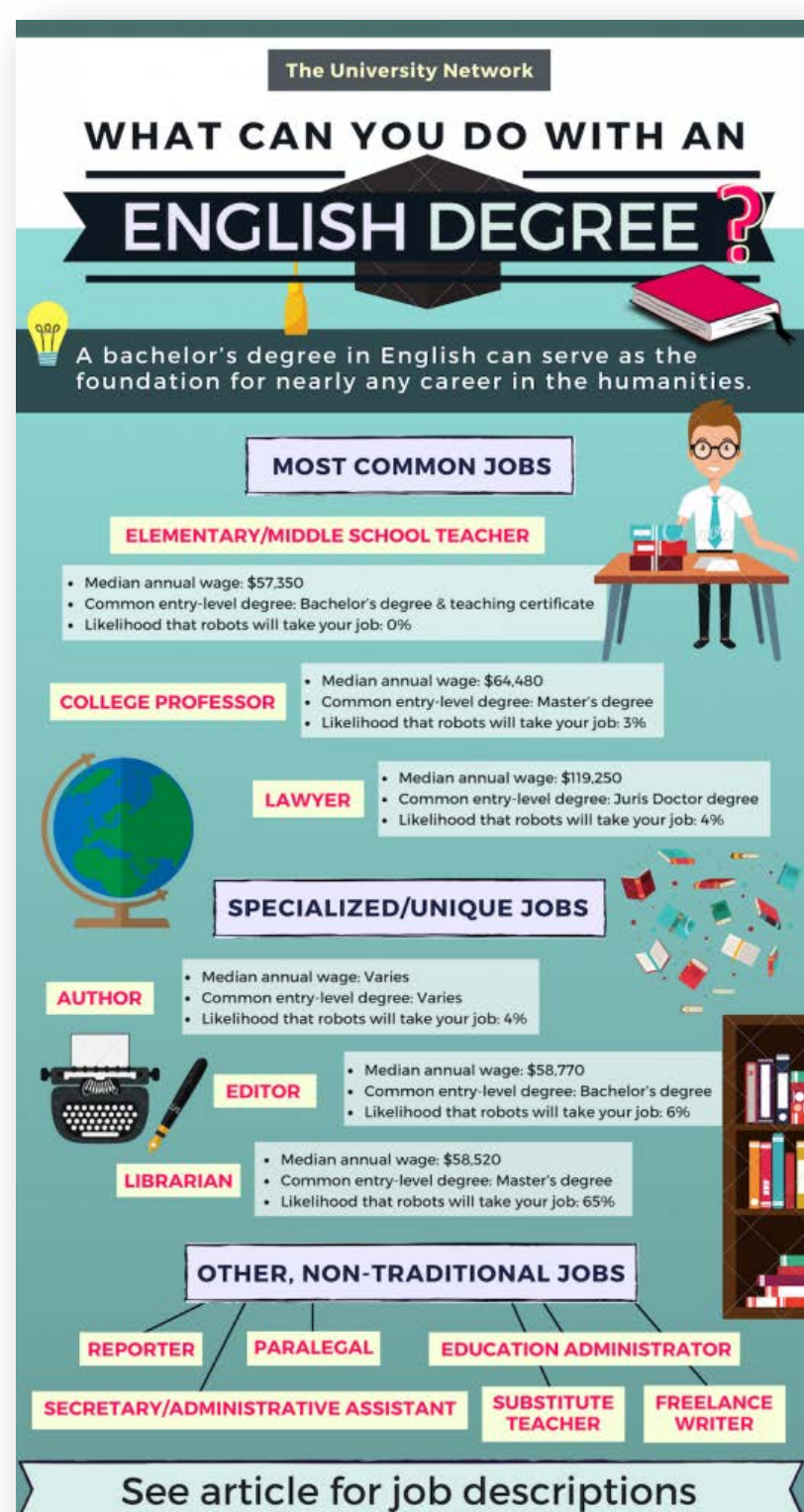


Figure 2: Visual art by The University Network detailing various English degree career fields.



Figure 3: Visual art by The University Network detailing various philosophy degree career fields.

Interviews & Quotes

Dr. Angela Schwendiman is the Faculty Commons Director and Senior Lecturer in Africana Studies at Eastern Washington University.

"Everybody has something to contribute to society and we need to see and recognize that. To lessen impact of racism we need to be able to give more voice to outside writers." –Dr. Angela Schwendiman

"In various ways. The perspective that you bring to understanding literature is all about the meanings you get from culture. One Can interpret literature in many ways by coming from different backgrounds. Cultures not rooted in Euro thinking can see more clearly ideas, thoughts, approaches, and philosophies of the 17-19th century writing and can see where others had differing approaches and understandings. Bringing those various views into interpretation helps us to solve problems that we face." –Dr. Angela Schwendiman

Dr. Jonathan Johnson is a poet, author, and professor at EWU.

"Poetry is homebase, memoir is more inspiration, branching out helps you reach out and expand your horizons. Think of long term, longer day, write all the time, allowing it to take shape over time. Separate publishing life from writing life. Lots of rejecting so have faith and believe in your work." –Dr. Johnathan Johnson

"Find yourself on the page." –Dr. Jonathan Johnson

Dr. Lynn Briggs is a professor of rhetoric and composition at EWU.

"You (English major) can do anything...enter anywhere because everyone needs English majors. Places need us to reframe, new slogans, letters, etc." –Dr. Lynn Briggs

"Orange. The color itself is sunny and bright. However, when you divide it into how the colors mix such as yellow and red. When divided, there are more options and opportunities. For example, orange is sunny and bright, red is more serious, and yellow is fun! The English field is a fun mixture of it all." –Dr. Lynn Briggs

Interesting English & Philosophy @ EWU

EWU features a wide variety of culturally diverse and inclusive classes.

- ENGL 489: LGBTQ+ Writers: Their Lives and Their Works
- ENGL 384: Remix Studies: Cultural and Rhetorical Theory
- ENGL 389: Women, Literature and Social Change
- ENGL 382: Studies in Epic Fantasy
- ENGL 381: Contemporary African American Literature
- ENGL 380: Survey of Native American Literature
- ENGL 302: Writing Web Content

- PHIL 447: Environmental Ethics
- PHIL 420: Queer Theory
- PHIL 415: Feminist Theories
- PHIL 332: Latin American Philosophy of Liberation
- PHIL 331: Chinese Philosophy
- PHIL 214: Philosophical Voices and Pop Culture
- PHIL 213: Moral Issues in America

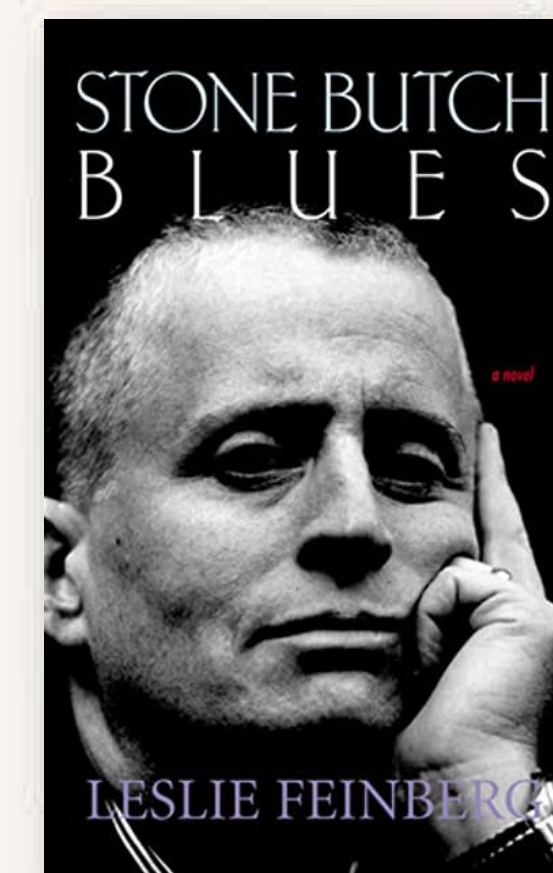
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Our "Billboard"

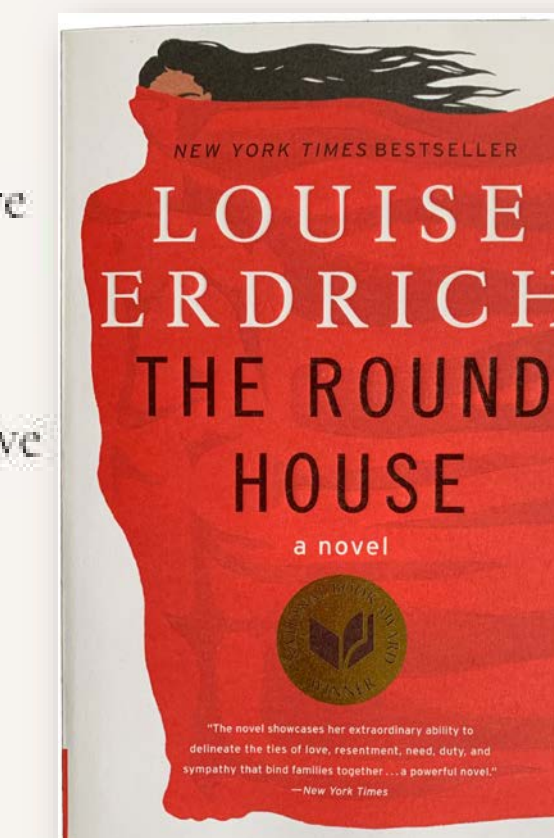
TRANSFORM YOURSELF THROUGH THE ENGLISH AND PHILOSOPHY MAJORS

By Travis Bonwell, Joscelyn Bradbury, Christina Hudson, and Jenna Sotin



LGBTQ+ Writers and their lives course explores the experience of the queer community and how they have been marginalized. Various novels in this class focus on LGBTQ+ history while giving under-represented communities a voice.

The Survey of Native American Literature course gives insights into indigenous culture and history, including the mistreatment indigenous communities have faced.



Should America enter the war to help Ukraine? Does Russia have a right to Ukrainian land? Philosophy and ethics provide a strong foundation for real-world problem solving. Classes in EWU's Philosophy department engage students in critical thinking in applicable ethics and practical philosophy.

The Careers possible for an English major are endless. Skills learned in English are highly transferable to various careers fields All industries need good communicators both on and off the page.



When you think of English Studies, does music come to mind? It should! English is more than just the written word. Remix Theory dives into the art of remixing elements, be they music, art, or pop culture.

Ramona Edelin is a black activist with a PhD in philosophy. She later founded the African American Studies program at Northeastern University and now serves as the executive director of the DC Association of Charter Schools.



STOP! DO NOT READ!

Discover more about EWU's English and Philosophy department by scanning the QR code or by visiting: ewu.edu/cahss/english-philosophy/



What can you do with an English Degree? Scan the QR code to find out!

