

We asked past Humanities students what they remember about the class, and what they would say to rising 9th graders who are thinking about taking it. Here are their responses:

Why Humanities helped me- Humanities was a fast paced and fun class! Especially since I had it first and early in the morning it helped wake me up for the rest of the day. The relationships I built in this class are precious to me, I made a good friend in this class and we would help each other with history and english, we learned a lot together and to this day we still help each other with our AP history and english classes! I can't forget about the two wonderful teachers I had which always paid attention to their students and showed nothing but kindness and compassion.

All of the teachers involved in Humanities are amazing people and genuinely care about their students as well as the material they're teaching.

The culture within the Humanities classrooms is different than any other class I've ever taken. My friends and I made a Columbus diss track for a History project and I starred in a movie about being a World War One soldier for an English project about WW1 poetry. Creativity and questioning the material we studied were not only allowed but encouraged.

The class itself is amazing- when I first signed up for Humanities, I was really confused on how it would work since it's english & history combined, sort of. It may seem a bit off-putting, but I found the tie between the classes much, MUCH more better since I was able to actually understand what I was learning and develop an interest for it. I'd say that if history or english is currently not your strong suit, TAKE THE CLASS. It's going to help you so, so much and you'll make amazing memories in the class. There's lots of memorable things like the projects you do, and the people you meet.

Academically, taking Humanities was definitely the right choice for me. I really struggled in Honors English during my freshman year, and I was discouraged from taking any higher-level English classes because of it. My English teacher recommended that I take Humanities instead of giving up and taking a normal level English class for my sophomore year, and I'm glad that I decided to take it. Humanities helped me to better understand the point of view of texts that we studied in English class because we were learning about the historical context behind the texts in History class. English class also allowed us to question the white, straight, male perspectives that are and have been the focus of English classes and taught us that other perspectives are just as important. I became a much better writer, and the confidence in my ability led me to start writing outside of school. Since taking Humanities, articles that I've written have been published by small, youth-run organizations as well as bigger platforms.

This year, I'm taking AP Lang and Dual Enrollment USVA History, and I don't think I would be doing as well in these classes or would have even considered taking them if I hadn't taken Humanities last year. I also met a lot of new friends in Humanities, including one of my closest friends. I think that because we technically had two classes together and saw each other every day, it was easier to become closer faster.

Humanities is a class that I would highly recommend for people who plan to take AP or DE courses in the future, Humanities definitely prepares you for that and once you're in an AP class, everything becomes second nature. If it weren't for Humanities, my grades in my english and history classes wouldn't have been nearly as high as they are now.

This class helped me understand so many concepts and I felt it was very useful for me now that I am in AP classes. In school, this class is very interactive and we have lots of fun, so maybe if next year things get better you all will be able to experience the fun and excitement that is Humanities. I suggest all sophomores who maybe think are not ready for AP yet to take humanities, It helped me in so many ways, specifically to create thoughts and understand literature and to write good essays, because that is all you'll be doing in AP lang. Anyways I hope you guys definitely consider humanities you will not regret it!!

Humanities is one of the best classes you could take in your sophomore year. Please do it.

I started thinking about all the great memories I made in humanities. For the upcoming 10th graders thinking about humanities, its worth it. It is a bit of a challenging class, but once you get used to the work level, its a very fun and dynamic class course I would recommend to any 10th grader. Humanities did a great job preparing me for a lot of my other challenging classes, especially APUSH one of the most popular Junior AP classes. While being in class, I felt I built a relationship with the teachers and my classmates and made being in school and learning much more enjoyable.

Humanities, to me, is better than other classes because it combines two classes into one bigger, more interesting class. The combination of the two classes makes for more interesting material in both English and History, like the ability to study the history of the people whose work we are reading in English. Sophomore year was really hard emotionally, but I always looked forward to going to Humanities. The teachers are some of the most supportive teachers I've ever had the pleasure to be taught by. Having two of my teachers work as a team was incredible because I could ask them both questions and get the answer, instead of having to wait a day until I saw one of them again. Not only was I lucky enough to have them supporting me, but I met my best friend through Humanities. Humanities prepared me for both AP Lang and AP Human Geography, because while the workload is a little lighter for Humanities, it was still more than freshman year, so it was a gradual shift rather than a sudden change like many of my friends who took AP World experienced.