

Thomas Deaton

By Dillon Miller & Collin Massie



Thomas Deaton is an English major with a concentration in professional writing and a minor in environmental studies & sustainability. Originally beginning his college career as undecided, and even leaning towards a pre-med focus, Thomas

then looked back on how much he enjoyed his English classes in high school. Like many other English majors, he was encouraged by a perceptive English teacher who, seeing a talent and a drive for the written word, told him he should pursue English. And he hasn't regretted it.

Thomas mentions that the concern with audience in the PW concentration is what he found most appealing, and that this has helped immensely in preparing for a career after school. Of course, as many an English major knows, not everyone realizes the benefits of an English degree.

Thomas says, "While my immediate family was (and is) strongly supportive of my choice to be an English major, it was an interesting choice to the remainder of my family, who couldn't quite grasp the usefulness of the degree and the application it might serve after graduation. Mix that with a minor in environmental studies, and you certainly have one interesting conversation piece for the Thanksgiving table."

He recently interned at the US Department of State in Washington, D.C., working with the Major Events and Conferences Staff (an Office detailed to the Office of the Chief of Protocol). On top of that, he received first prize in the 2018 Undergraduate Conference on Language, Literature, and Culture with his piece "Spirituality and the Environment: Learning from *People of the Whale*."

Thomas was recently accepted into American University's MA in Political Communication, George Washington University's MPA, and Johns Hopkins's MA in Public Management programs. He has yet to decide on a program.