

Logan Lerch

Classes taken: British Literature to Romanticism, Exploring the Humanities, British Literature II
Graduation Date: May 9, 2026



Figure 1 Me(Logan Lerch)

Section One: Community Curiosity, and Diversity

This program has helped me demonstrate engagement through the honors meetings held every month. Having a place to talk with other honors members and have fun with game night and friendsgiving helped me engage with the NWACC community. Making ornaments for a nursing home during one of these meetings was fun and got me indirectly engaged with the community

outside of NWACC. For Valentine's Day I attended a meeting where painting, and watching movies was on the agenda. Finding a movie to watch was a debate, but some of us had not watched K-Pop Demon Hunters and it was good to experience their first time watching it. Getting those organic reactions was a wonderful experience.

I also got to travel with the honors program to the Great Plains Honors Conference and presented work from my Exploring the Humanities course. Getting to engage with other honors students and explore their works, and research made me question things I knew nothing about, and I got to discover so many new areas of study.



Figure 2 My painting for the Valentines Meeting

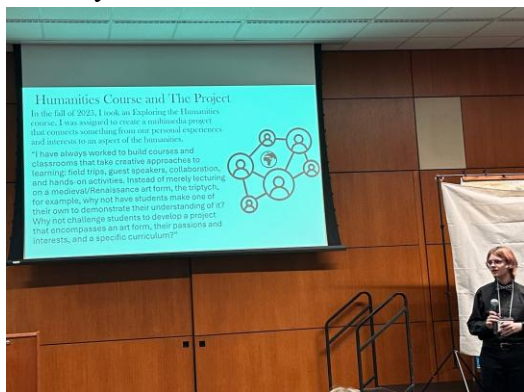


Figure 4 Me presenting at the GPHCC



Figure 3 The Humanities Project I presented



In my Exploring the Humanities class taken in Fall of 2025 we went to the day of the dead celebration that was held on campus. Getting to see all the altars, enjoy the music, and eat the

food was helping to connect with not only the community in the class but the culture that I'm not very familiar with. At one moment the musicians got some of us to gather in a circle and dance. We started to dance around the entire space for the event. Everyone had a smile when this happened. In the Humanities class we also got to take a field trip to the Museum of Native American History. Some of the artifacts we saw were from our area, but there were some pots and clothes from as far down as Peru. An assignment we had while on this trip was to pick a favorite artifact and try to discover how it was used. I picked a whistling pot. I was so intrigued by the animal it was sculpted to look like and that it could whistle. I thought it was like a tea pot, but I couldn't know for sure. So many things in the museum brought about my curiosity. Like how some of these artifacts were used, and did the clothes keep them warm, and were all the beads heavy to wear all the time.

Section two: Skills I Gained

The skills I got from the honors program that have helped prepare me for university are confidence in my own ideas that I got in the British Literature class. This skill was really developed during the assignment for an argumentative synthesis I did. I had to really look into several sources to prove connecting themes throughout the works we read. During the peer review for our outline and sources we had collected I got some comments about it offering suggestions for the points I could add. Some of the ideas weren't really aligned with what my project was focusing on, so I didn't include them. I was confident in what I had done and the synthesis of the works connecting to my topic. I also learned how to write in different styles. I wrote in the style of an epic, and sonnets for British Literature. I did a take on Beowulf told through the perspective of Grendel, and an original sonnet about a sunflower. The attention to detail I needed to write the epic was crucial. Every word and syllable was thought about carefully. I incorporated the epithets, and even scenes not told in the original, but only alluded to and I did some investigation of the times and location it was written about to write well. Small details did not go unnoticed. Grendel never talked in the original epic, so in my version I did not add any Grendel speaking parts. Another skill I learned from the honors program was quote identification and memorizing styles of writing, and important quotes in literature. This skill was also gained during the British Literature to Romanticism course. On every exam there were quotes that we had to give the title of the work they were from and for bonus the author. We read a lot of works for every exam, so having to figure out how to pick out the important parts of a text and the style of writing was how I memorized so many quotes. The recall I had for some of the quotes surprised me. I also made my own study guides for the British Literature class. Thinking ahead is a great skill that will help in work and university. Not every professor will give a study guide so making my own and it actually helping me do well on exams showed that I had gotten this as a skill, and it's one I can use for work as well. Planning ahead and identifying what's important will help me in every place of my life. During the Great Plains Honors Conference I presented work, and doing presentations in a professional setting is a skill that is needed in so many fields of work. It's a skill that most have to practice to get good at, so doing

this helped my confidence in my presentations. Another soft skill I developed was innovation during a card game. On the way back from Kansas City some other honors students and I decided to play Go Fish, however the back of a bus is not the ideal place to play. We created a makeshift table out of a capri-sun box, and some bags. We tried a few different ways to play the game before we found the best way to lay the cards down at that moment. The game was fun and we didn't lose any of the cards.

Section three: An Impactful Experience



Figure 5 The wonderful people I went with to Kansas City

One experience I had as a member that impacted



Figure 6 Perfect Attendance Award

me was In British Literature to Romanticism class I took Fall of 2025. At the end of the class when I handed in my final my professor handed me an award for perfect attendance. It was a simple and kind gesture, but it meant so much to be told that my presence was noticed and valued in the class. On the award it said, “thank you for your hard work, dedication, and passion.” Having someone acknowledge the effort I put into the class, and showing up every day and doing my best to participate and engage with the material made me feel valued and encouraged to keep working hard to pursue

my goals and passions. Showing up every day can be difficult and the desire to spend the day at home with my cat working on assignments that are due soon is strong. I hung the paper the professor gave me in a frame above my desk so I can be reminded that all the work I've been doing is setting me up for success.

Section four: Advice for New Members

Some advice I would give to any new member of honors is to take a risk and be confident in your work. There are so many experiences to have in life, so much to create and discover. Continuous effort in doing what you're passionate about will produce wonderful things. Your energy, time, and ideas are worth listening to and developing into something great.



Figure 7 Me at the Kansas City Zoo in front of a polar bear statue