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| ENG125-WK1-DISCUSSION#1 | Barney Pippin II Email this Author | 1/18/2017 6:58:12 PM |

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|  | * **What does literature offer an individual?**

The answer to this is subjective in nature. I believe that literature offers an individual several intrinsic values. It can be a means of mental escape into a story, providing a mental break from the present. It can be an outlet for emotions that might otherwise remain dormant or tucked away from the world. It can be a means of expression for those same feelings or for those that may remain secluded due to the taboo nature behind them. I can be a means of communication of self to others & vice versa. A means of intellectual stimulation & growth, that may be missing in the day in & day out of someone’s life.* **How has the importance of reading changed from earlier eras (pre-digital/audio/visual media) to our present day? Do you think we read differently now than we did in prior generations?**

In my opinion, reading is more important now that before the digital revolution. In today’s digital world we are more concerned about immediate gratification of the issue, dilemma or the need to know information & typically do not read books or volumes on a subject to gain knowledge. I also believe that we read differently than in prior generations. We have gained great “Googling” skills, but lack the retention of the actual knowledge of the subject we are seeking. We use search options & databases with in the digital medium to provide us our answers to immediate questions, but often we miss the meaning or context of the information gathered. Today’s digital return of the requested search lacks the emotions of the writer. Whether it is the cutting sting of the words on a topic of great emotional turmoil or the melodic & harmonic cadence of a poem expressing the love one feels for another. * **Do you think Clugston’s quote is valid? How have perceptions regarding the value of literature changed, if at all?**

I feel that Clugston’s quote is more valid in today’s present than in yesterday’s past. I don’t think that we as a people have realized that our views on literature have changed in the ways I mentioned in the previous answer. I think as the generations grow & change, the unusual for the older generation, becomes the norm for the younger. My children don’t find the same pleasure in holding a book in their hand & reading the story page by page as I do. They enjoy the story, but prefer the kindle or iPad to read it as their life is much more active than mine was at their age. They search “through” the text to find the information they want, usually not finishing the story. The key point is that the literature itself is shared & that links them to the past, as it did me, no matter what medium they/we consume it in. The hope is that there is retention from the consumption.* **What causes people’s perceptions regarding the value of literature to change?**

As I stated above, I think it is done absentmindedly. Mainly because our life today is so different than that life you read about in the literature of the past. This could even be in the past 50 years. Today’s generations have not had to struggle for life or endure the hardships that the previous generations creating a gap in understanding & created more of a mindset of, “that was then…It really doesn’t apply to me today”.   **Reference:**Clugston, R. W. (2014). [*Journey into literature*](http://outboundsso.next.ecollege.com/default/launch.ed?ssoType=CDMS&redirectUrl=https://content.ashford.edu/ssologin?bookcode=AUENG125.14.1) (2nd Ed.) [Electronic version]. Retrieved fromhttps://content.ashford.edu/  |

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