



Casey Monahan

# Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Casey Monahan SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

GRADES: 11th Grade SUBJECT: AP Language and Literature

Q. What are your students learning in class?

A. We are studying rhetorical strategies. They are learning how to develop an argument. They are learning how use examples members of their audience care about to help persuade them to consider a certain point of view.

Q. What type of an entry task do you use to get class started?

A. Right now students are writing six minute arguments. When you are asked to defend a position, you often don't have time to gather information. You have to argue with what you have, so this task helps them do that.

Q. Why do you use timed writing assignments?

A. In the test they take from me they have to write three essays in 120 minutes. They don't have a lot of time to pre-write or plan. They just have to dive in and write. The new SAT exam requires them to write a 25 minute essay, so these timed assignments help them prepare.

Q. Why do you place students in groups of four rather than in traditional rows?

A. I believe students learn as much from each other as they do from me. I can explain something to the students and then they can turn to each other to hear it another way. I really believe in cooperative learning and sitting in rows doesn't set up a culture for collaboration to happen.

## COMMENTS FROM WA-HI PRINCIPAL DARCY WEISNER:

"She brings out the best in all her students. They understand she really cares about them as human beings, and with that understanding and respect, they do amazing things for her in the classroom."

Over →



## MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM CASEY MONAHAN'S CLASS:



### COMMENTS: FROM CASEY MONAHAN

"Students need to understand what I expect so I set clear standards for classroom behavior. This is an AP class so these students are here because they want to learn. They take responsibility for their own learning."

As students in Casey's class learn to argue they study how to defend, qualify and explain why they agree or disagree with an issue. Students learn how to look at both sides of an issue to better defend their positions.



### COMMENTS FROM JANET:

"We explore how what we are learning compares to our lives so it draws you in. Mrs. Monahan cares about your problems and helps you fix them."

Janet Hill - 11th Grade