

# THE PERSPECTIVE

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**The Spritely and Most Noble High Council of Yonder Perspective**

- Eran Feintuch, Most Beardly Chancellor
- Ashley Richards, High Chancellor In Charge Of Brainstorming and Travel Arrangements
- Megan Hartmann, Most Egregious Envoy of Middle Eastern Dances
- Eric Scott!, Most Panda-like Chancellor

## LISTEN UP, TIDDLYWINKS- THIS IS *THE PERSPECTIVE!*

Welcome once again to the magical world of *The Perspective*. We hope that you will enjoy our laborious efforts to bring you the latest in dynamic newsletter driven content, including both words and pictures in the same document. Revolutionary, we know, but we hope that eventually the rest of the world will catch up with us.

Some will inevitably bring up the point that this issue of *The Perspective* is, well, late. To that, this author can only say one thing in defense of himself and his fellows:

Look, over there! It's a bunny!

...You're still here, aren't you? Well, on to Plan B: pitiful excuses.

Clearly, you have no idea as to the effort- sometimes painful, agonizing effort- that goes into the production of this fine piece of dead tree (or arranged electronic impulses delivered through a vast series of tubes, if you are reading this online.) There is, truly,



Eric Scott!, exhausted after a long day of designing layouts.

only one way to rectify the situation, and that is for YOU, yes, YOU to submit articles to *The Perspective!*

Articles about what, you ask? Just about anything, really. Serious articles are always in short supply, but we like funny ones as well. If you've got an idea for a short article, fiction, essay, rant, or

cartoon strip, send it to your dutiful layoutsman via his mailbox or through e-mail.

Do it, or else you'll have to read more things written by me!

*Eric Scott! is a senior, majoring in Snark. His email address is eos127@truman.edu.*

## DEAR ERAN

Dear Eran,

I am desperately in love with John McDonough and am utterly distraught that he did not win the esteemed title of Best Theoretical Writing Consultant. How can I go on living?

- Tearful in Toronto

Dear "Tearful,"

You need to get a hold of yourself. Just chill out. Seriously.

Anyways, it appears you have experienced the phenomenon that I like to call "Disappointment in Democracy." It's tough to handle the

fact that despite your own certainty on a given issue, other voters may not feel the same way. I understand that. But there will be other opportunities. Take heart! If you work hard today to get John's name out there, maybe he'll perform better in future polls.

## DEAR ERAN (CONTINUED)

As for your infatuation with John, it sounds kinda creepy and definitely unhealthy. I'd like to remind you that there are other fish in the proverbial sea. If you choose to persist, please refrain from submitting such questions to The Perspective in the future. Slip a love letter in his mailbox or something, but don't write me again. It's just weird.

Yours,  
Eran

Dear Eran,

I feel a burning sensation every time I pee. What should I do?

Love,  
Enflamed from Illinois

Dear "Enflamed,"

Um ... err ... wow, this is awkward. Has this sensation persisted for a long time? You should really see a doctor about that. Oh, and by the way, this isn't the medical advice column. Read more carefully next time.

Yours,  
Eran

We'd like to remind our readers that questions for the "Dear Eran" column may be placed in Eran's Writing Center mail slot, emailed to [ef625@truman.edu](mailto:ef625@truman.edu), or mailed to P.O. Box 67, Antananarivo, Madagascar.

Eran Feintuch is a certified electrical engineer living in Boise, Idaho.

## THE USUAL SUSPECTS

In a standing tradition for The Perspective, here are some fun facts about your fellow consultants.

1) *Full Name:* Idean Elise "Deana" Judah

2) *Year in School:* A super-dee-duper senior/in-between (aka classic perpetual liberal arts student currently applying to graduate school)

3) *Major(s) and minor(s):* English—Composition B.A./ Psychology B.S. (Pre-MAE English Secondary + Pre-MA English) + minors in Music (piano emphasis) and Philosophy & Religion

4) *What's the craziest thing you've done in a conference?* Ran around the room screaming and waving my arms over my head because a paper was so gosh-awful. Actually, I'm kidding. This one time...I told a good joke or two. The end.

5) *If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?*

Madeleine L'Engle—she was pretty much amazing and I always wanted to pick her brain about *A Wrinkle in Time*.

6) *If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?*

Either *The Giver* or *A Wrinkle in Time*.

7) *If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?*

Laugh... Really hard and say, "Aww shucks, Kathy, you're such a comic. Have a nice day." And then leave. Then again, I'd probably turn around and say, "You weren't serious...right?" Beyond that, who knows...If she made me

take it and it wasn't April Fools Day, I'd probably go into the conference room for a little while and cry or just suck it hope and hope the paper is at least entertaining or full of pretty illustrations. (Or perhaps I'd make some amazing pie and throw a consultant reading party where everyone is awarded a complementary set of 10 exciting reading pages!)



*"Um... err... wow, this is kind of awkward."*

## THE USUAL SUSPECTS (CONTINUED)

1) *Full Name:* Cindy Brenner

2) *Year in School:* Senior

3) *Major(s) and minor(s):*  
Spanish and English

4) *What's the paper/subject you're dreading working with the most?*

I'm not looking forward to looking at any papers that deal with Spanish literature I'm not familiar with.

5) *If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want*

*next to you and why?*

I'd want it to be Douglas Adams because few other authors can make me laugh as much.

6) *If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?*

Ender's Game, because it's freakin' awesome.

7) *If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?*

Laugh and cry at the same time.



1) *Full Name:* Jennifer Lynn Cunningham

2) *Year in School:* Senior

3) *Major(s) and minor(s):* English, Pre-MAE (secondary), Communication minor

4) *If you were stuck at the top of a Ferris Wheel, what famous writer would you want next to you and why?*

Jonathan Safran Foer or Zora Neale Hurston, because their books are fascinating and we would have a lot to talk about.

6) *If you could take any book ever written and claim it as your own, which would you choose and why?*

The Harry Potter Books, because I would never have to work again.

7) *If Kathy handed you a 100 page long paper for a conference the next day, what would you do?*

I would quit. Just kidding. But I might cry.



*"Ender's Game, because it's freakin' awesome."*

*The Consultant Survey was designed and administered by Ashley Richards.*

*Ashley Richards is a notorious railroad baron, having once bought and sold the entire town of Whitestaff, Pennsylvania. She has been known to tie young men to railroad tracks, only to be thwarted by the same band of mystery solving teenagers again and again.*

### CONSULTANT POLL:

Who would make the best writing consultant:

Chris Rock, Rocky Balboa, or Amelia Earhart?

OFFICIAL RESULTS, ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION

Chris Rock: 40% Amelia Earhart: 15%

Rocky Balboa: 12% Other: 33%

Most popular write-in candidate:

John McDonough. Why the popularity?

As one voter put it, "Because he's so handsome."

### GUESS THE CONSULTANT:

This consultant has:

-Made out with an Olympic medalist

-Had dinner with Jerry Seinfeld

-Been to Disney World 23 times

-Probably lied before.

*(Are these facts even true? We have to wonder...*

*-Ed.)*

## THE WRITING CENTER

*The Perspective*, As staffed by:  
Eran Feintuch, Megan Hartmann, Ashley  
Richards, and Eric Scott!

Published as often as possible.

Please send all submissions, which will likely be accepted, especially if you include a bill of recommendation by our good friend George, to eos127@truman.edu.

Quite a bit of the *Perspective* is pure satire, like this thing to the right. Please accept it in the spirit in which it is written.

We have a website, though unless  
you're reading a copy in the WC  
itself, you already knew that.  
[writingcenter.truman.edu](http://writingcenter.truman.edu)

  
***The Perspective***

*Brought to you by the freaky pyramid  
thing stuck in by Microsoft Publisher.*

# 9 WAYS TO GET AHEAD IN ENGLISH (WITHOUT REALLY TRYING)

I know that most people who read this article will be skeptical of my claim that a few simple tricks will improve your English grade. However, I guarantee that you will melt the heart of your English professor by employing these simple tactics, and you will be well on your way to getting that elusive, condescending English-major “voice” that will earn you respect and an “A.”

**Use big words.** Go ahead and be a sesquipedalian! Use big words, even if you have no idea what they mean. My philosophy is that the more letters there are in a word, the less likely it is that your teacher will be 100% sure of the definition. The thesaurus on Microsoft Word is a good tool and your friend—or rather, it’s an advantageous device and an invaluable comrade.

**Use tons of adjectives.** I once conducted an informal experiment where for one semester, I used “poignant” as an adjective at least once in my paper for all my papers. I got A’s on all my papers that semester. And in response to my biology teacher’s claim that cells can’t be poignant... um...yeah they can.

**Find symbolism. In everything.** Nothing impresses your professor more or elevates your status among your peers like finding symbolism in a work. Explain the symbolism of “attendance policy” on your professor’s syllabus to the class. Nod knowingly when your professor wears a “Gap Athletic Department” and explain its symbolism and its role in society. Be creative. You’re in an English class—anything you say is valid if you support it enough.

**Use post-its.** Whatever book you’re reading for your lit class, cover the pages with post-its sticking out haphazardly. Better still is to listen for when someone references a minor plot point, and then have your face light up and start frantically thumbing through pages. If your professor calls you out on it, thumb through a few more pages and then regretfully and dramatically sigh and say, “I’m still looking for a page number.”

**Bide your time in class discussions.** Wait for the “BS point”—that point in the class discussion when it’s possible to raise your hand and contribute something to the discussion that doesn’t require knowledge of what you’re actually learning in class. Personal anecdotes or stories a perfect way to get participation points without having to know anything or contribute anything of substance to the discussion.

**Reference a “classic.”** Name drop whenever possible. “This reminds me of Tolstoy’s use of commas in *Anna Karenina*...”

**Use semicolons.** Who cares if you use semi-colons incorrectly? It’s much more impressive if you use the mysterious semicolon when a period would suffice.

**Quantity over Quality.** Quality over quantity? Please. When in doubt, just add length. Change the font, the margins, the spacing between the lines, expand character spacing, or add a huge heading. Get that extra length.

**Use the “History Channel” voice.** Whenever you see someone on the history channel, historians are always talking in a condescending and authoritative voice. It doesn’t matter what you say—it matters how you say it. Say in a confident voice that C.S. Lewis was actually a rabbit and say it with authority.

*Megan Hartmann was expelled from Truman State University for significant failures in her academic integrity. She recently accepted a position at Denny’s.*