

To: UCSC Academic Senate and to all Stevenson College Alumni

I am a Stevenson College Alumna from 1982 and was an Academic Assistant/Writing Tutor (AA) at Stevenson College for four years. (I stayed on an extra year after graduation to head the Academic Assistant Program at Stevenson College as I thought it was so important.)

As an AA, I was assigned to the Stevenson College Core Program, and to one of its Professor Advisors, along with other AAs, to work closely with the incoming Freshman classes participating in the program. I was one of several AAs who worked with between 400-500 students during my career at UCSC. I, of course, took the Core class myself.

The study of the development of civilization, and of "Self in the Society", was The Most Important Course of My College Career! The Core classes focused on different eras, peoples, societies and cultures, and during the year-long course, I learned more and more about who I was and how MY society, thus, My "Self" in that society developed. I also learned how to hone my writing skills, how to read lots of books quickly (ha, ha!) and how to communicate my ideas in classes, with my peers, and on paper. This was a very powerful and enlightening part of my education at UCSC.

As an Academic Assistant, I could, and did, help many students learn valuable lessons provided by the Core Course, and how to express their own personal experiences through the papers and interaction required; which, I believe, helped to lay a foundation for their entire college experience.

Without, the Stevenson Core Course, I do not believe that, I, or my students, would have had the opportunity to lay such a strong groundwork for our careers after college.

Please do not "dumb down" the Stevenson College Core Course to a lecture hall or a 2-3 unit course.

Please continue to teach Students about "Self in Society" and give them the foundation needed to be successful at Stevenson College and beyond.

Please preserve the "Heart" of the Stevenson College courses for all incoming Freshmen and Freshwomen for years to come.

Thank you,
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