

The value of Stevenson's core class could not be stated in simply one email. But I can say why the small seminar style class made it the way that it did.

First, having a small seminar style class for the first quarter of college made my transition from my small high school to the overwhelming size of a university much easier. I was able to personally connect with both my peers and the professor in a very personal manner that I have not been able to do in any of my larger lecture style classes. This made my first quarter much easier and I formed relationships that I will hold for the rest of my life from this small seminar style class.

In addition, the material that we discuss in core can be controversial and politically heavy. Because of these transformative ideas that we are being presented, it is critical that we students have the ability to directly question the professor and be in constant dialogue throughout the session about our ideas with the subject. Without these opportunities of questioning the ideas, people would not be able to take nearly as much out of the class as I was able to.

Finally, the two quarter system of core allows the ideas that we learn to come full circle. The first quarter of core for me laid the theoretical basis of the second quarter. In other words, the first quarter is spent trying to understand ideas of our place in society while the second quarter is spent analyzing different ways in which these theoretical approaches have been put into practice.

The two quarter system also allows us to get the perspectives of two different very knowledgeable professors on similar ideas.

I hope that you do take this email to heart and you share it with all who have power in the decision to transform this amazing course. Please feel free to get back to me if you have any questions regarding what I have said or if there is anything else that I can do to make sure Stevenson core remains the amazing class that it is

Sincerely,
Matt Marshall