

At the Senior Recognition Night, Ms. Harter introduced me with the statement, "There is only one Joey Lorenz." Here, I can ^{finally} return the favor by confidently stating that there is only one Amy Harter.

Now, our AP English class had a final unit on public speaking. So understand if I seem nervous as I've put myself under the impression that Ms. Harter will be subconsciously grading me.

Some of you here will know me for being a very... sarcastic individual. It's for that reason that I was utterly delighted ~~to~~ when I first entered Ms. Harter's classroom ~~in~~ my sophomore year and found a common trait. I tell no lie when I say that I found, and continue to find, her method of speech entrancing as she can deliver any news in just the right manner so good news is more uplifting and bad news has some reassurance behind it. Never sugarcoated, ~~a~~ mind you, rather it's the difference between, "That sounds horrifying and I'm scared," and, "That sounds horrifying, but I can do it".

Beyond that, Ms. Harter has a wonderful openness to ideas that I admire. To her, there are no stupid ideas (unless they're REALLY stupid, I mean the absolutely terrible ones). This meant that when I pitched my Talon column "Everything's Coming Up Joey" in which I put inane ramblings in the school newspaper, she gave the suggestion that it be accompanied ~~with~~ ^{by} a picture of a flower with my head in it. Her openness allowed for this year's most popular Talon article. Perish the thought.

Side note,

I also wish to ~~add~~ compliment her lovely singing voice which I only got to hear on the last day of school as she sang "Part of Your World" and put everyone else in the room (myself included) to shame. Also, to be honest, I find myself very intimidated by Ms. Harter. As in, I know Mr. Nikson could easily beat me up, but Ms. Harter would likely destroy me in a way I can't even imagine. So there's that.

But the biggest thing I find inspiring in Ms. Harter is her ability to...well...inspire. In the past year, I've found a renewed passion for literature and writing especially. She's able to take her love for the subject and pass it on to her students simply with how she teaches the class. Combining a traditional ~~curriculum~~ curriculum with an almost old-school passing of wisdom onto the younger generation.

You've made me a better writer. You've made me want to become an even better writer. You've done more for me than I can ever say. I thank you, Ms. Amy Harter, and hope that (in the future/ wherever the future takes you) everything comes up
Amy Harter.

Jeffrey Lopez