Throughout the year of taking AP Lit that I have grown in a variety of ways. The first thing that I noticed throughout this class was my increased ability to analysis a books or poem’s meaning, and connect it to seemingly unrelated things. I also noted that it is much easier for me to write an essay explaining those connections, and how they can be applied. Later in the year I found my ability to be more open, and share personal stories with my classmates has increased exponentially. With my increased ability to be open I found it much easier to connect to my audience in my presentations, and write better creative stories as a result. I believe that my increased ability to be more open with others has been the most important growth for me because it was something that I found to be difficult.

In my high school career I have taken many AP courses because of the increased effort required for them. With the beginning of the trimester being focused on preparing for the AP exam I found myself giving more than 110% so I could receive the score that I wanted to achieve. Even though I knew the best presentation was still to come I didn’t let myself be distracted by thoughts of my senior project. After we took the AP test I found that I enjoyed seeing the progress I was making on my culminating senior project, and was ecstatic to present it to my classmates because I had worked so hard on it. I would have to say I worked the hardest on my senior project because I chose a topic that I was very passionate about, and had wanted to do as my senior project since sophomore year.Out of all the projects we have done this year this one was the most fun for me.

Throughout this class I have done a lot of intellectual risk taking. In this class I have found that I took the most intellectual risk taking in terms of my presentations. I think the biggest risks that I took have been in the creative writing pieces, This I Believe, and the senior project. With the one prompt of the creative writing it asked you to share the most painful thing that has happened to you. I found this challenged me a lot because I didn’t want people to judge me for saying that having my heartbroken by my first love was the hardest thing because I often hear people say that it shouldn’t bother you. In the This I Believe I took the risk of sharing something extremely personal to me, and since my story involved a mentally ill family member I also risked the stigma that mental illness has. With the senior project I took a topic that many of my classmates could care less about, but that is very important to me. My passion for language has always been something that defined me and I wanted to have the opportunity to give that same excitement to others.

This year I have seen growth in myself as a reader, writer, and critical thinker in a vast array of ways. As a writer I noticed at the beginning of the year with the Elements of Fiction project how much text my slides had, and how that made me a ineffective speaker. Comparing that to the senior project at the end I have seen that I have become a more effective speaker. I would say the biggest thing that helped me with my presentation ability was the TED Talks on presentations, and just being able to be more open with my classmates. I have also noticed growth as a writer in my free response essays in that they is more analysis, and smoother transitions between each paragraph. As a reader, I noticed my ability to present to my audience my books themes, and how they are connected. I noticed this when comparing my [elements of fiction project](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/16UECnBgEBrsyuVKCI_GB39NXTrTo3-2_KeCufcFU1A8/edit#slide=id.p) to the [Pecha Kucha](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1pIzmgcv86OTbCSTiOD1Z3eg04SvEvjd9LAt23Atn6gU/edit#slide=id.p).As a critical thinker, I would say the biggest improvement was my ability to make connections to other books, and nonfiction books. I noticed this because at the start of the year I found it hard to contrast texts in the free response essays, and later in the King Lear project I found it easy to connect King Lear to our non-fiction outside sources. I would say that this class has been the English class that I have seen the most growth in.