

When I first began taking Latin in 6th grade, I never thought it would be a lifelong passion. In fact, I chose Latin over languages like Spanish, French, and Mandarin because of ... English! That's right, I originally chose Latin because I was advised by my teachers and family that learning Latin would help me develop a richer vocabulary, appreciate the origins of words, and help with my ACT English passages. As I have progressed through Latin courses from middle school all the way up to Latin V/VI in 12th grade, there have been many tangible ways that Latin has positively affected my learning outside of the Latin classroom:

1. English Class

I have experienced firsthand that taking Latin in fact can make you a stronger English student. After all, around 30% of English words have Latin roots. Thus, there have been plenty of times when I have been able to decipher unfamiliar words based on their connection to words I had previously seen in Latin. This has made my writing one of my strongest demonstrable strengths.

2. Speech Writing

By reading Cicero, I've learned the power that literary devices hold in a speech. I use devices such as the tricolon or asyndeton with high frequency when crafting essays and speeches, or when I am casually speaking with friends to convince them about my point of view. Rhetoric is quickly becoming a lost art in our language. Armed with the knowledge that the way words are strung together matter equally, if not more, than the words themselves allows me to gain an advantage when I am trying to persuade.

3. History

One of my favorite aspects of Latin is that it comes with its own history lesson of the ancient Roman world. In United States history courses, I see how the founding fathers pulled from the (sometimes problematic) thinking of Roman philosophers and orators. I am able to use this

knowledge to deeply analyze early democratic thinking in the 13 colonies, allowing me the opportunity to ponder what specifically attracted our founding fathers to the ancient world as a beacon of light.

This is all to say that Latin has opened up doors to pathways of learning that I never expected, for which I am very appreciative. If you are considering which language to take in high school, I am confident that Latin can open several doors and opportunities for you as well.