

## Jacob Schur: Student and Writer

By Jacob Schur

As I look back on myself as an incoming freshman, I must admit that I was not too excited about having to take Core. I looked at the course through a lens of skepticism. But as I look at myself now, an enlightened young man, almost done with his first semester of college, I must say that I have been pleasantly surprised. Core has given me so much, both as a student and a writer. My writing style, my revising methods, and my voice as a writer have matured. The Core experience was a very positive experience for me.

The two papers that I chose to include in my portfolio are examples of some of my better writing. I chose my first and third papers because I enjoyed writing them. My first paper, titled "The Birth of Champions," was about a basketball team that I coached throughout my high school years. This particular group of kids left such an impact on my life. It was easy for me to write about the team because I loved those kids and that showed in my writing. The feedback from my peers, my professor, and the writing center helped me project my story onto paper. My second paper that I chose to include, titled "Stepping into the Light," was about how the film *Garden State* and Plato's allegory of the cave related to one another. For this paper, my professor helped me immensely in improving my paper. I had a solid thesis and paper to begin, but after I received further advice on my paper, I was able to make it into an amazing work. Never before had I been so aided in my revision process. This new concept improved my writing beyond belief and I am completely proud and confident in my writing.

Not only have I developed as a writer, but also as a student. I often looked forward to Core class. Core allowed me to see what other people think and how they feel. Whether it was

their understanding of a text or their views on global warming, I was able to hear responses from all levels of the spectrum. I believe that people better understand themselves when they come to understand others as well. It is beneficial to see where people are coming from and why they believe what they believe and why they think the way they do. Core has been a perfect medium for this conductivity between individuals. It allows people to interact and build off of each other. Through my Core experience, I have become a better informed individual. I am entirely satisfied with my Core experience. I thoroughly enjoyed my classmates and professor and wouldn't have changed a single thing had I the chance to do so.

Lastly, I liked how the course progressed and went in accordance with what we were studying. As we studied creation and birth, we were going through the developmental stages as Core students. As we moved onto a new stage of life in our studies, we evolved as Core students as well. It was an interesting experience that made the course that much better. The parallel between material and experience, whether intentional or not, gave me a better overall understanding of Core's intention. As one travels into the depths of Mueller Hall and into a windowless room, who could have imagined that in this place, the windows of life would be opened, and the light would shine through. Core has given me so much, and for that I am eternally grateful.