

Questions

Are you a recent college graduate? Did you happen to receive a Bachelor's and/or a Master's degree? Do you plan to continue on with school and apply for PhD programs? Are you being selective and stubborn and only looking at Southern California schools to apply for? Are you putting false hope inside your head that you'll be one of the 4 students selected out of an application pool of 200 students? Do you have to take the GRE exam? Have you seen the type of questions the exam has?

Take a look. Take a breath. Take a look again, but this time at the English literature subject exam. Did looking at it make you feel like you learned nothing in college? Did only knowing the answer to the *Frankenstein* question make you feel like you wasted your entire college career? Did it make you reassess your entire goal of being an English professor and writer? Did it prove to you once and for all that you aren't special or even smart; you were just lucky enough to get through college and earn useless degrees?

It's not all of your professors' fault. They tried. They encouraged you. They supported you. They even told you that you were a good writer even though it most likely hurt them to give you that same false hope that you used to give to yourself. You should have listened to that one professor. You know, the one who told you to give it all up because you weren't good enough. You shouldn't have been so headstrong. You should have just thrown in the towel, should have laid down quietly on the track and waited for the headlights. But no, you're still thinking about application fees, statements of purpose, and which professors you can beg and convince to write your letters of recommendation to schools you won't get in to. Well done, old sport. Well done.