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It's easy to have grand ideas of monumental projects when you apply for the English Honors Thesis. I for one applied during my semester abroad in London, and when pondering ideas and topics I channeled what I had enjoyed most about the English major. I looked to the Reformation and the political novel, conceptions of justice in British politics and ideas of marriage which I'd enjoyed studying in both English and Theology. I soon found myself with a prompt that would require several volumes for a proper argument, if one could even be made. When the thesis seminar came in the Fall, my dreams were dashed by pragmatism, but the work ahead was no less valuable. My thesis project gave the opportunity to create something which I truly cared about while forcing me to zone in on those crucial skills I'd developed in my English electives. And with the help of my advisor I came to the much more manageable and appropriate topic of marriage law in my favorite Shakespeare play, *Measure for Measure*. This scope allowed me to work with all of those grand ideas I previously mentioned — justice, British politics, and the Reformation— while primarily crafting an essay which had the text as its primary focus, something that had been harped on in all of my prior classes. With the research that followed, I got a glimpse of the academic writing process of those who shaped my experience in the English major, a glimpse which instilled a greater respect for that process. It also served as an appropriate culmination of my research experience within the English major. We've spoke time and time again in my classes about the "conversation" that is academic scholarship. One of the very first classes I took was called "Visions and re-visions," a phrase which also encapsulates the development of academic attitudes on a topic over time. The honors thesis truly allowed me to become a part of this academic process of re-vision because I not only contributed to a larger scholarship but I carved my own path within it. I see this contribution and

this respect for the process behind literary scholarship to be some of the most valuable benefits of writing the honors thesis.

Of course, the completion of my project during the pandemic threw a wrench in the mix. Luckily my advisor, Susannah Monta, was of enormous help despite the situation, always available for a video conference or advice over email. But without reliable access to the library, study spaces available on campus, and access to a number of resources, it's easy to feel alone in the process, which can add to the intimidation that comes with a project of this size. On another level, it can be tough to focus on a project which seems so small in scope compared to the tumultuous world events permeating the news every morning. I do think the eventual completion of my thesis offered a sense of accomplishment and pride that was much appreciated during these tough times. But the fact of the matter is that it felt like the circumstances of the pandemic stomped on a lot of the work I had accomplished on campus previously. It's an unfortunate truth, and no one's fault, especially considering that the English department was extremely helpful and conscious of the struggles which the situation presented. I can only say that I hope no other class will have to write their theses in times like these.