Why Do Today's Employers Need English Majors?

Part 1: What English Majors Bring to the Job Market

Employers today need people who can do the things your English degree prepares you to do:

- analyze data and information to find patterns, trends, and connections
- conduct, organize, and apply extensive and credible research
- engage in disciplined processes of producing several communicational items at once
- write quickly while being correct and effective
- make well-structured, logically sound arguments or cases
- use images effectively (requires knowledge of human beings)
- think in steps: processes, consequences, short- and long-term, etc.
- use language accurately, concisely, and effectively in a wide range genres
- handle detail with accuracy
- recognize and separate fact from opinion and other subjective responses
- read documents deeply to find meaning and implications
- break down and organize masses of data or information in a user/reader-friendly way
- design and format communications (written, presentations, social media, websites, etc.) for maximum user-friendliness and appeal
- accurately summarize what happened
- analyze and adapt to diverse cultural contexts
- discern human motives, needs, and wants
- synthesize and connect things: ideas, goals, topics, events, cause and effect, etc.

Part 2: English Majors' Special Skills

Regardless of what industry you choose to work in, here are **capacities you will offer employers that people with other majors often don't have:**

Creating a compelling argument. English majors learn to take a position (like a thesis statement in an essay) and make an argument that supports the assertion.

Proofreading and editing written work. English majors are taught to proofread, edit, and refine written pieces until they are polished.

Giving constructive criticism (and taking it well). They learn to give and take constructive criticism since papers are often reviewed by peers in the classroom setting.

Reading for the big picture while noting the details. English majors read and digest massive amounts of content each week. They're able to pick out major concepts and discern flaws in arguments.

Managing their time and prioritizing tasks. They must learn to manage their schedule well in order to complete the time-consuming reading and writing tasks assigned to them on time.

Respecting differing points of view. Learning to understand and appreciate different perspectives as they attempt to understand the approach taken by various authors and classmates is another valuable skill learned as an English major. They learn that there are typically many different ways to approach a problem.

Exercising creativity. English majors often have a creative flair that enables them to compose poems, stories, and essays, as well as to conjure up a unique interpretation of a piece of literature.

Preparing and giving presentations. Explaining perspectives and presenting information verbally to others is a critical part of the educational process for English majors. As a result, they learn to give presentations—a valuable skill in the business world.

Part 3: Skillset Labels for English Majors

Here are some abilities that many English majors have honed during their degree. These skillsets are worded in the language that employers use when writing job descriptions.
- Written Communication
- Interpersonal Communication
- Verbal Communication
- Presentation Skills
- Project Management (e.g., you manage multiple writing projects at one time)
- Time Management/Deadline Management
- Situational Adaptability
- Flexibility
- Research
- Analysis
- Teamwork
- Team-building
- Collaboration
- Attention to Detail
- Accuracy
- Editing and Proofreading
- Marketing/Promotion (anything you've done that involved selling, publicizing, getting donations, etc.)
- Audience Awareness
- Adapting Communications to Diverse Audiences