

April 25, 1928

Mr. Stan Lee Kapustka
University of Illinois
Urbana, Ill.

My dear Dr. Kapustka: ,

I have your letter, saying that I can assist you in your desire to write, and you ask me various questions about what you should study.

I am afraid that I can be of really little use. You ask if I advise your majoring in English or journalism. In English. Journalism is best learned by doing it.

What languages are of importance? English, first of all, and then the languages of great literature - French, German, Italian.

As for reading, follow the line of your own interests. Your college courses no doubt require a great deal of reading. If there is one of these which arouses your curiosity more than another, follow it out. Look inside your own mind and your own feelings for subjects to write about. Set down your own reactions to your experiences. Study what writers have done and are doing - but not to imitate. You need not feel that anything you learn is lost, unless, indeed, you do it as a drudgery. Anything that stirs your mind and fills it, is useful for a writer. But remember that in the long run it is up to you and to nobody else.

Very truly yours