

# Katherine Poerner

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History, Pinelands  
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Students sometimes fear the phrase “Advanced Placement” and believe an AP class would be too difficult for them. Mrs. Poerner set out to prove her students were wrong for not believing in themselves. Halfway through the school year, Mrs. Poerner revealed to her honors history class that they had, in fact, been doing AP work the entire time. They were amazed at their accomplishments and, with renewed confidence, the students agreed to let Mrs. Poerner make the class fully AP. A simple sleight of hand had a resounding impact on her grateful students: “You made me feel like someone still believed I could achieve great things.”

