

Why College Is Important to Me

by Monty Bishop

Everything I have ever accomplished in my life is leading up to this moment. Taking that final step out of my house and into college will be the pinnacle of 12 years of education. This experience will be like advancing out of the stream of knowledge and plunging into the ocean of knowledge. The feeling of knowing that the next few years will be the catalyst for my future exhilarates me. College is the chance to not solely earn a degree, but to define who I am.

I have always been exposed to older relatives who have earned college degrees, and I have the personal drive to go to college in order to have a successful career and a purpose in life. There is a sense of wonder I get when browsing colleges, knowing that I potentially have access to hundreds of different futures involving the colleges I choose and the classes I take. College is the gateway in which ordinary high school students choose a calling and step into the world as a young adult.

Growing up near the Museum of Science and Industry in Tampa, STEM is no stranger to me. I have a view of what my future should be. Creating and developing new advances for the good of humanity is my calling. With this future in mind, I am stuck on what path of engineering I should follow. Logically, this is why I need a college education to guide me down the right road.

On my decision for college, I was also influenced by my experience in being a camp counselor at a summer camp for youth with neurological differences. Before I left for that camp, I felt as if the thought of working with these kids would be impossible. Working at the camp was a significant struggle in which I flew across America to a college campus in California and stayed in the dorms independently. When I was supervising campers there was naturally conflict between them that I had to manage. In the end, I persevered and was able to successfully maintain my responsibilities in the face of a major challenge.

College is necessary in order to feel complete as an adult knowing that I am educated and will work to the best of my ability with my degree. I know that I want to make a difference in the world, however, in order to make an impact I have to achieve the highest level of education. College is important to me not only for the education I will gain, but for the connections and friendships I will form. College is a community of peers, and classes are filled with people who have similar goals and values. Forming connections with both like and unlike minded individuals in college can broaden my perspectives and deepen my world view. It will transform me from just a teenager in high school to an adult in the real world with experience, education, and an end goal for life.