

Why College is Important to Me

by Katherine Cheng

Things inevitably change. And when they do, we can only look behind us and marvel at the growing distance between ourselves and the past. The deaths of galaxies, the echoing music of lost musicians, and the weathered words of forgotten authors fade behind us as we turn our eyes to a spreading horizon.

When I stepped onto college grounds the first time, surveying the lifestyle around me, I suddenly realized where I stood: on the precipice of change. Students of all backgrounds, from places across the world or just across the street, were preparing themselves for futures beyond the classroom. In school, our short-term goals propel us toward the hazy entity of *university*, but life does not end at college; it begins.

Throughout my life, I have dedicated my studies toward becoming more knowledgeable about the world around me. As a child, I dreamed of being a true scholar. In elementary school, I realized my passion for writing, my delight in artful storytelling. With a stubborn will to prove myself, I self-published three novels by the age of fourteen. However, I never had the mentorship that usually polishes intellectual craft, so I lacked the foundation necessary to achieve the level of skill I desired. College would help provide the foundation I seek, as it is ultimately a good education that enables amateurs to become professionals, children to become adults, and individuals to create change.

Two large forces drive public opinion in the modern world today: businesses and written word. I understood from quite some time ago that the leaders of industry and the penmen of thought are the two groups of people exerting the most influence, but little did I realize that all of us belong to those two categories in some way. I saw future leaders pass by me on that college campus. I read the words of my father's thesis. College serves as an incubator for bright young minds who are ready to contribute something to this world. I have always admired those who seem to reach out effortlessly across oceans to convey a simple message. Establishing myself

in college, familiarizing myself with an attitude of innovation, is the first step to tapping into the complex networks of society.

As a launchpad to greater goals, college not only prepares the mind for certain fields of work but also opens up individual potential in ways profoundly different from high school. I want to go to college to hone my own mental skill sets, but I am much more excited at the possibility of becoming part of a larger movement. Few places in the world nourish activism the way colleges do. Each student can mobilize themselves for a cause, working towards the change they want to see. While I continue down the path of education, I hope that my footsteps will lead me to a place of growth, back to that precipice of change where students move forward, and towards a future built by the collective efforts of empowered minds.
