

Why College is Important to Me
by Haley Kluge

When I was eleven and I did not receive my acceptance letter to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, I was emotionally distraught. Secretly, I always wanted to go to college to get the Hogwarts experience; the great halls, colorful professors, house colors and a good old game of Quidditch always seemed good enough reasoning. But then I turned twelve, and once that happened, there was no turning back.

In lieu of my dream to be a wizard, I plan on attending college to pursue my love of Journalism. Throughout the years, I have found myself enrolling in newspaper and magazine computer design classes at the YMCA, attending News Reporting Camp at Lansing Community College, immersing myself in the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Camp at Michigan State University, as well as spending my high school career as a Staff Writer and Managing Editor of the *Comet's Tale*, our award winning school newspaper. Grateful for the opportunities and challenges I have been able to experience locally, I have always strived to do more.

As a sophomore at Grand Ledge High School, limited opportunities are available for me to train in my chosen field of study. I begin with my basic knowledge of design and writing to jumpstart my articles, refine them with teacher and peer suggestions, and propel them to the printer with enthusiasm. My job as Managing Editor allows me to work with my Staff writers, shaping both design and content of our newspaper using my vision and personal style. However, with college, I hope to meet passionate professors and students, feed off their talent, and become a better writer and designer. Ultimately, I want to experience college as a learning tool; to learn from classroom exercises, teacher guidance, and my peer's visions and ideas.

In addition to advancing as a journalist and a designer, I hope that college opens up new career opportunities. The experience, foresight, and connections I will be able to make with a college

education are extremely valuable to my career. Traditional newspaper print journalism is fading when compared to alternative forms of media, including news web sites, information on-line forums and social media. Journalism is a highly competitive field, and uncharted journalism career paths are being forged in new territory. My hope is that college prepares me for the future of the Journalism industry, both print and electronic, helping to develop my talents, accept and expand new trends, and embrace the "new" journalism of tomorrow.

In my dreams, my true motivation to go to college is to play Harry Potter. But, as an aspiring journalist, I want to further my education to become a better writer and designer, studying and working with the best, and gaining something different from each facet of my college experience. I am a hard worker who is eager to learn, and I strive to be leading the future of the Journalism industry. A college education is the most important tool I need to achieve my goal.